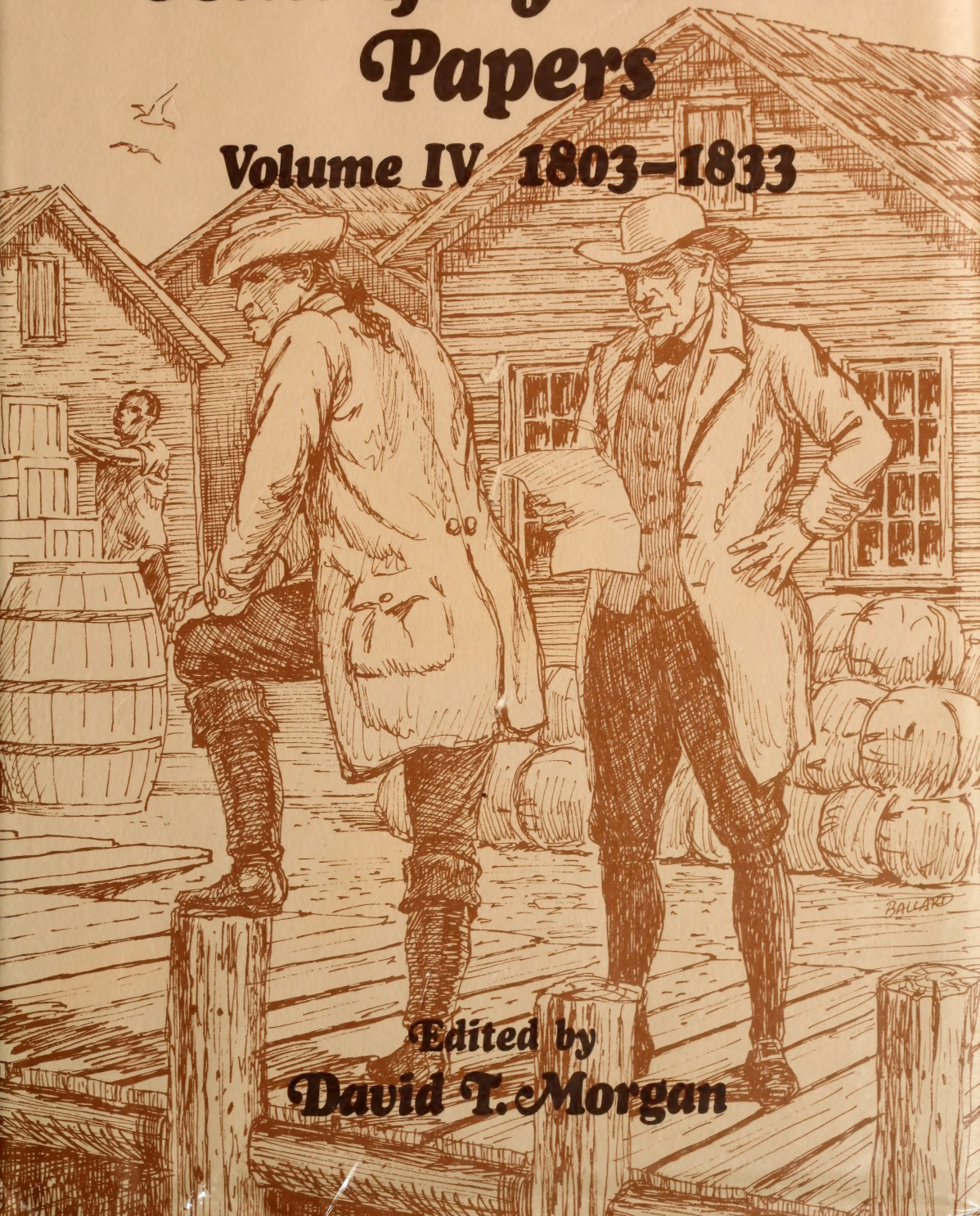


The John Gray Blount Papers

Volume IV 1803-1833



**Edited by
David T. Morgan**

Publication of Volume IV of *The John Gray Blount Papers* brings to a conclusion the series begun in 1952. Alice B. Keith edited Volumes I and II, published in 1952 and 1959, respectively; William H. Masters edited Volume III, published in 1965; and David T. Morgan has completed the series with this volume.

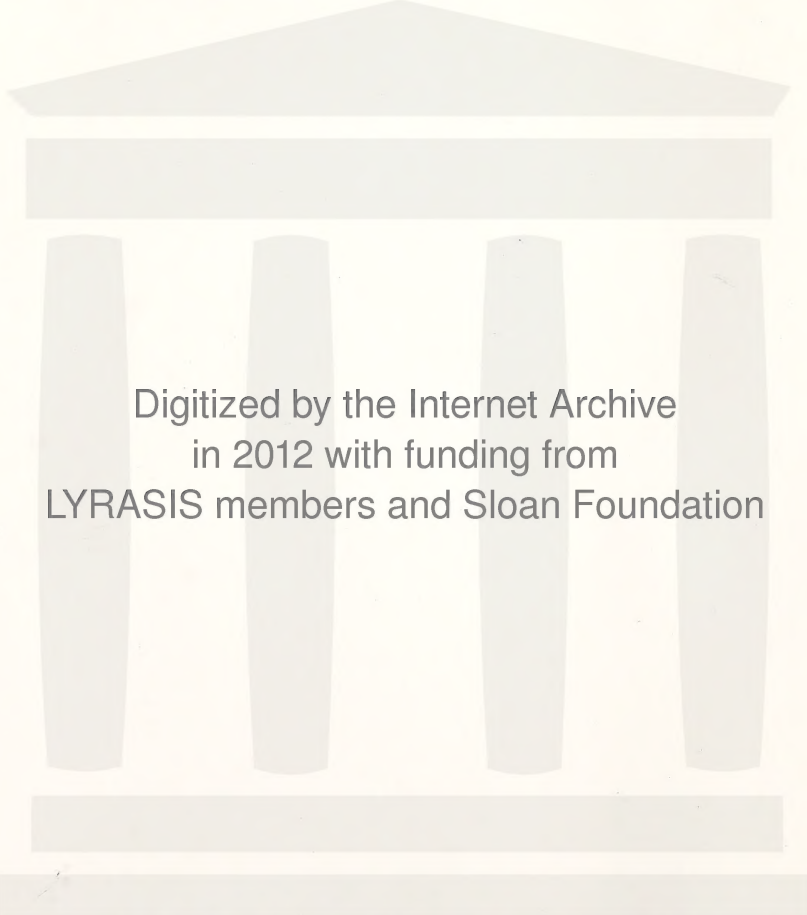
The fourth volume covers the years 1800 to 1833, a period in which John Gray Blount and his close-knit family exercised considerable influence over the political and economic life of North Carolina and Tennessee. His half-brother Willie served as governor of Tennessee during the War of 1812, while his brother Thomas, perhaps his favorite, endured tempestuous electoral campaigns to serve in Congress when he was not minding the family store in Tarboro. Among the political elite of the early nation who appear in the Blount Papers are such figures as Andrew Jackson, Nathaniel Macon, and Edward Livingston.

Though in his later years John Gray Blount rarely left his home in Washington, North Carolina, the orbit of his business, land, and political interests, as reflected in his papers, encompassed cosmopolitan ports from New York to the Caribbean as well as incalculable acres of land in North Carolina and Tennessee. The Blount family was deeply involved in land speculation, which kept John Gray Blount's agents and his sons John Gray, Jr., Thomas Harvey, and William Augustus on a constant circuit of Tennessee towns and courts to buy, sell, swap, and generally protect the family's land interests while Indian lands and Spanish territories to the south and southwest beckoned them further.

Besides owning or claiming extensive lands in Tennessee, eastern North Carolina, and the mountains of western North Carolina, Blount or his family and business partners operated stores in Washington and Tarboro along the Tar-Pamlico River, in rural Hyde County, and at Shell Castle. An outcropping of oyster rock off Ocracoke Island, Shell Castle served as a deep-water entrepôt for seagoing trade before it shoaled up. In addition to his extensive agricultural operations in Hyde County, Blount's lumber mills exploited the thick forests of the Coastal Plain.

A privileged member of the southern gentry, John Gray Blount enjoyed the deference of humble, ambitious, and prominent alike. Local magistrates, militia officers, legislators, governors, congressmen, and senators carried his favor, listened to his counsel, and sought his support. Blount used his network of associations to good advantage. When pressed for payment of notes he owed the State Bank of North Carolina, for example, he had state treasurer John Haywood intervene in his behalf to extend the loans. His political influence helped secure remunerative government offices and contracts for himself, business associates, and family as well as military appointments for his sons during the War of 1812. Indeed, the Blount Papers give an unusual





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THE JOHN GRAY BLOUNT PAPERS



John Gray Blount

1752-1833

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The John Gray Blount Papers

Volume IV
1803-1833

NOV 18 1982

Edited by
David T. Morgan

Raleigh
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
Division of Archives and History
1982

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FOREWORD

With the publication of the fourth volume of *The John Gray Blount Papers*, a project spanning three decades is being brought to fruition. Begun by the late Alice B. Keith of Meredith College, the first volume was published in 1952. It was followed by a second, also edited by Dr. Keith, in 1959. She found it necessary to relinquish the editorship because of ill health, and the work was assumed by William H. Masterson of Rice University, who was the biographer of William Blount. Dr. Masterson completed the third volume before moving to Tennessee. His administrative responsibilities as chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga allowed no time for editorial work, and he resigned from the project.

David T. Morgan expressed interest in the Blount series, and arrangements were made for him to edit the last volume. Dr. Morgan, a colonialist, is professor and chairman of the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Montevallo; his doctorate is from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is known for his research and writing in North Carolina's early history. The Division of Archives and History is grateful to Dr. Morgan for assuming the work begun by others and for bringing it to a successful conclusion.

This volume could not have been published had it not been for the help of several present and former members of the staff of the Historical Publications Section. Dr. Jeffrey J. Crow, historical publications editor and head of the General Publications Branch, was responsible for seeing the volume through the press. He did needed research to supplement and verify information in footnotes, checked transcriptions against original documents in the State Archives, prepared the index, and proofread the book. Assisting him in footnote research was Terrell Armistead Crow, formerly proofreader in the section and now an editorial assistant. Blair Gibson, a former member of the staff, and John Harrington, a Dartmouth College student who worked as an intern in the fall of 1979, helped proof transcriptions against original documents. Patricia R. Johnson, the section's proofreader, read the book in its entirety in both galley and page proof. Appreciation is hereby expressed to each of these individuals who played a part in making this volume a reality.

Memory F. Mitchell
Historical Publications Administrator

July 1, 1981

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

When a project goes on for almost eight years, as the editing of Volume IV of *The John Gray Blount Papers* has, the editor necessarily becomes indebted to numerous people who provide help along the way. This editor is certainly indebted to many different people who furnished various kinds of assistance. I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to a number of people. Dr. William H. Masterson, who did such an able job editing Volume III of *The John Gray Blount Papers* and who started work on Volume IV, graciously turned over to me many documents on microfilm and countless typescripts of letters. His generosity saved me much work. Professor Al Chalk, who was chairman of the Mini-Grant Committee at Texas A & M University in 1972, helped me secure travel funds through his committee, and without this financial assistance it would have been most difficult for me to visit the North Carolina State Archives and the Tennessee State Archives to do necessary copy work and research work on identifications. After I left Texas A & M University and became affiliated with the University of Montevallo in 1973, further financial assistance was made available to me through the kind efforts of Dr. John B. Walters, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Kermit Johnson, president of the University of Montevallo until August 1, 1977; and Dr. James F. Vickrey, Jr., president of the University of Montevallo since August 1, 1977.

The respective staffs at the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh and the Tennessee State Archives in Nashville have been very kind and cooperative. Specifically, Mr. C. F. W. Coker, former North Carolina state archivist, and Dr. Thornton W. Mitchell, who succeeded him, made it possible for me to have free access to the Blount collection. Mr. George Stevenson, supervisor of the Search Room at the North Carolina State Archives, has patiently given abundant assistance in my research. Mrs. Linda Anderson has helped much with the xerox and microfilm copying of documents. In the Tennessee State Archives good advice and help in locating obscure information were kindly given by Mrs. Cleo Hughes, Mr. John Thweatt, and Mrs. Jean Waggener. Although they are not directly connected with the North Carolina State Archives, I often received good advice and help in locating obscure items from Dr. Jerry C. Cashion, supervisor of the Research Branch in the Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, and from Professor William S. Powell of the Department of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Last, but by no means least, the women who work in my office have given invaluable help with typing and copy work, and I would be remiss if I failed to thank Mrs. Jacqueline Battle, Miss Joan Barrett, Miss Dale

Burch, Miss Doreen Cofer, Miss Becky McCulley, and especially Mrs. Martha Hassett Taft who worked steadily with me for a year or more on the typing. Her efforts were virtually indispensable. While putting the manuscript in final shape for the printer, I was ably assisted by Mrs. Jeanie Masters and Mrs. Carlye C. Best. For the tremendous help I received from each and every one of them, I am most grateful.

No doubt I am overlooking others who have helped in one way or another. The omission of their names is due to failure of memory, not to lack of appreciation. To all those, named and unnamed, who helped me in any way, I offer my sincere thanks.

David T. Morgan

University of Montevallo
November, 1979

INTRODUCTION

In some ways Volume IV of *The John Gray Blount Papers* was more difficult to put together than the first three volumes. The fourth volume covers a period of thirty years, or twice as many years as Volume I and six times as many as Volume II and Volume III. This means that the editor of this latest volume was compelled to be more selective and to exclude numerous documents that would have been included if fewer years had been covered. Therefore, a decision was made to choose, when possible, letters that refer to national, regional, or state concerns rather than local concerns, but some letters dealing with strictly local matters have been included. Letters pertaining to mercantile orders and price lists were intentionally held to a minimum number. All documents are from the John Gray Blount collection in the North Carolina State Archives unless otherwise specified in a footnote.

All in all, the other problems remained essentially the same as those that confronted Dr. Alice Keith, editor of Volumes I and II, and Dr. William H. Masterson, editor of Volume III—problems such as deciphering misspelled words and cryptic statements, reading illegible handwriting, and identifying obscure references contained in the letters. As the reader will soon discover, many of John Gray Blount's correspondents were semiliterate. In wrestling with such problems this editor more or less followed the pattern established by his predecessors on the project. As a rule, misspelled words have been left as they were written, and where the editor thought the reader could figure out the word intended, he has not inserted the correct spelling in brackets beside the misspelled word. Occasionally, where it was obvious that a word or part of a word had been left out (in some cases inadvertently, in others ignorantly), the editor has inserted the word or missing letters in brackets. Sometimes the editor has inserted in brackets what he thinks the writer intended to say, but he has elected to do so only in those cases where the reader might have serious difficulty drawing the conclusion for himself. *Sic* has by design been used sparingly. In most cases, omitted punctuation by the original writer has not been inserted by the editor. Extremely erratic punctuation such as excessive dashes, commas, and periods as well as unintentionally repeated words have been eliminated without destroying the "flavor" of the documents. For consistency most salutations, dates, and closings have been positioned in standard places, though they often vary widely in form, indentation, and appearance. Angle brackets indicate the page number in the original document. Footnotes are numbered consecutively through each year. Because of numerous cross references, citations to earlier infor-

mation are to the year and footnote number, not to a specific letter or page. Hence, the following designation: 1803, n. 1.

The problem of identifying obscure references in the correspondence has been a perplexing one. An attempt was made to identify approximately 1,500 items. Perhaps as many as one half of that number have been identified or partially identified. Generally speaking, those items not identified have been passed over without note, but the reader can be assured that a reasonable effort was made to identify every reference to people, places, and events mentioned in every letter. In many cases items have been noted several times in different parts of the text, with the second or third note referring the reader back to the original note of identification. Several people were identified through census records as heads of households in the counties in which they lived, and that was the only information about them that could be found.

The kinds of letters John Gray Blount received and wrote after 1802 were little different from those that have appeared in the first three volumes of this series. Among the subjects frequently mentioned in the correspondence are: the buying and selling of land, ships and cargoes, highly publicized events of the time, and above all politics. John Gray Blount continued his deep interest in land, particularly the lands he claimed in western North Carolina and Tennessee. When his sons grew to manhood, he sent them to Tennessee to locate properties he claimed but knew little about, to save lands from the tax collector who was on the verge of confiscating them for delinquent taxes, and to sell property to raise money in times of financial troubles. Thus, Thomas Harvey Blount, John Gray Blount, Jr., and, to a lesser extent, William Augustus Blount made trips to Tennessee to handle business relating to Blount land. To keep track of his properties in western North Carolina, John Gray Blount continued to rely on Robert Love, his agent for so many years.

The Blount mercantile business, with headquarters in Washington on the Tar River and branch operations at Tarboro and Shell Castle,¹ continued to flourish in the opening years of the nineteenth century. Shell Castle, however, began to decline after 1810 when "Governor" John Wallace, John Gray Blount's partner who ran the Shell Castle operation,

¹ Shell Castle, a twenty-five-acre oyster rock, was located in Wallace's Channel near Ocracoke Inlet. In 1800 twenty-five people lived on it, and it was a thriving depot of trade with docks and warehouses. Its importance as a trading center declined after John Wallace's death in 1810. During the War of 1812 Wallace's Channel began to shoal up. Today Shell Castle is a small, uninhabited island. William P. Sharpe, *New Geography of North Carolina* (Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 4 volumes, 1954-1965), II, 583, hereinafter cited as Sharpe, *New Geography of North Carolina*; David Stick, *The Outer Banks of North Carolina, 1584-1958* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1958), 83, hereinafter cited as Stick, *The Outer Banks*.

died. During the War of 1812 Wallace Channel, which made it possible for ships to approach the oyster rock, began to shoal up, and Shell Castle ceased to be a thriving mercantile depot. Even so, Blount ships continued to engage regularly in the American coastal trade, in the West Indian trade, and in the European trade, though perhaps to a lesser extent than in former days. A goodly number of letters in this volume, as in the previous volumes, are about ships, cargoes, and trade. For example, John Gray Blount, like other merchants, suffered losses during the wars of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era. From 1823 until his death in 1833 he, along with other claimants, worked through James H. Causten, a Baltimore and Washington merchant and lobbyist, to gain compensation from the French through diplomatic action by the United States government. Although a Franco-American treaty providing for compensation was ratified in 1831, France paid nothing until 1836, three years too late for John Gray Blount.

Highly publicized events like the Louisiana Purchase, the successful launching and use for commercial purposes of the steamship, the War of 1812, various presidential elections, and numerous other newsworthy items found their way into the Blount correspondence. A detailed account of the trials and tribulations of Robert Fulton, pioneer in the development of steamships for commercial use, is included. This information is found in the correspondence because of John Gray Blount's dealings with a New York lawyer and promoter, John Devereux DeLacy, who also worked for Fulton. And, too, there is considerable commentary on the War of 1812, mainly because his sons Thomas Harvey, John Gray, Jr., and William Augustus all served as officers in the army, and Willie Blount, John Gray's half-brother, was governor of Tennessee during the war.

The most discussed subject throughout the correspondence is politics. For nearly as long as he lived John Gray Blount continued to be well connected politically, principally through his brother Thomas and his close friend William Blackledge, both of whom were active in North Carolina and in Washington, D.C. Thomas Blount often created controversy in political campaigns, as he did on one occasion when he ran against William Kennedy for a seat in the United States House of Representatives. At one point in the campaign Kennedy asserted that the Blounts recognized as legitimate the Granville family's claim to the Granville District, in spite of the fact that the state of North Carolina had confiscated it. He charged further that the Blounts had attempted to purchase the claim from the Granvilles. Thomas Blount emphatically denied both charges and took strong exception to Kennedy's tactics. In later years John Gray's political contacts were limited primarily to North Carolina through his friend Joseph B. Hinton and through his prominent son, William

Augustus Blount, who became a general of militia in 1816 and later a member of the state legislature. But these men were by no means John Gray's only political allies in Raleigh.

Occasionally the correspondence offers something entirely unexpected, such as a discourse by Willie Blount in a letter to Andrew Jackson in 1809 on why eastern Indians should be removed west of the Mississippi River. It was Jackson, who, as president of the United States a quarter century later, effected the removal of most eastern Indians to the trans-Mississippi. Equally fascinating is a series of letters attempting to arrange duels between various New Bern gentlemen, including Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr. How these letters found their way into the Blount collection has not been ascertained by the editor.

Much happened to John Gray Blount and his family between 1803 and 1833. There were, as always, marriages and deaths. One daughter, Polly Ann, married William W. Rodman of New York, and the Rodman name, like the Blount name, remains prominent in North Carolina until this day. Reading Blount, John Gray's brother, died in 1807, and John Gray Blount served as executor of Reading's estate. In 1810 Sharpe Blount, a half-brother, died. Two years later in 1812 Thomas, who was probably John Gray's favorite brother, died in Washington, D.C., while serving in the United States House of Representatives. The correspondence dealing with his sickness and death provides an example of the fascination with which many nineteenth-century Americans regarded the morbid details of a fatal illness. For the next twenty years John Gray Blount's family situation remained fairly stable, and he continued to be active, engaging in business affairs and keeping up with politics. In the last few years of his life he bought stock in the Plymouth Turnpike Company and contracted to build part of the turnpike. He was also elected by the state legislature to the Council of State, but through his friend Joseph Hinton he turned down the honor because of his "advanced age" of nearly eighty years. On January 4, 1833, John Gray Blount died in his eighty-first year and was buried in a local cemetery in Washington, North Carolina. Because it took months for his sons to settle his affairs, Volume IV does not stop immediately after John Gray's death.

Alice Keith, the editor who began this series, asserted in the introduction of Volume I that John Gray Blount "was one of the most important figures in North Carolina in his day," in spite of the fact that he held no high office and is less well known now than his brothers, William and Thomas. Because he was directly or indirectly involved in most of the significant national as well as state developments during his time, Keith's assertion remains valid. For over fifty years John Gray Blount was vitally involved in such matters as the Revolutionary War, the ratification of the

Constitution of 1787, the westward movement (through his heavy speculation in western land), the "Revolution of 1800," which put Thomas Jefferson into the president's office, the War of 1812, the French spoliations issue, and the struggle by southerners to preserve the institution of slavery. In the four volumes of *The John Gray Blount Papers* the reader finds information about these and many other important developments. And, too, because of John Gray Blount's connections with leading Americans throughout his eighty years, the reader should not be surprised to encounter the names of such people as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Robert Morris, James Wilson, Timothy Pickering, Andrew Jackson, John C. Calhoun, John Randolph, Nathaniel Macon, Felix Grundy, John Sevier, James Robertson, John Armstrong, John H. Eaton, Churchill C. Cambreleng, Willie Blount, plus numerous other national leaders and most of the leading men of the states of North Carolina and Tennessee.

On the other hand, the four volumes of the Blount Papers introduce the reader to unimportant matters and obscure people as well as to significant events and people in high places. One can find references to the first names of slaves, names that can be found nowhere else—not even in the census records. Obscure relatives and lifelong friends who made no history appear in print in these volumes solely because of their personal connection with the Blounts. Commonplace matters of everyday life, having neither national nor state significance, abound.

Thus the four volumes contain something for every person interested in history. There is information useful to the national, state, and local historian, the antiquarian, and the reader who just enjoys learning more about the past. Collectively, the four volumes recreate the world of John Gray Blount, a time when North Carolina passed from a colony in the British empire to independence and to statehood in a new nation.

Chronological Listing of the
John Gray Blount Papers (1803-1833)
Included in This Volume

LETTERS FOR 1803

1. Ira Hollowell to John Gray Blount, January 4, 1803
2. Benjamin Woods to Thomas Blount, January 5, 1803
3. Gavin Alves to John Gray Blount, January 7, 1803
4. John Wallace to John Gray Blount, January 10, 1803
5. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, January 12, 1803
6. William Shannon to John Gray Blount, January 31, 1803
7. Benjamin Blackledge to John Gray Blount, February 7, 1803
8. James Armstrong to John Gray Blount, February 22, 1803
9. John Grimes to John Gray Blount, March 23, 1803
10. Sharpe Blount to John Gray Blount, April 8, 1803
11. Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, April 16, 1803
12. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, April 30, 1803
13. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, May 12, 1803
14. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, May 30, 1803
15. Peter Schermerhorn & Son to John Gray Blount, June 20, 1803
16. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, June 21, 1803
17. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1803
18. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, July 13, 1803
19. William Ross to John Gray Blount, July 26, 1803
20. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, July 30, 1803
21. David Clark to John Gray Blount, August 6, 1803
22. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, August 26, 1803
23. James Turner to John Gray Blount, October 10, 1803
24. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, October 18, 1803
25. Henry Selby to John Gray Blount, October 25, 1803
26. William Blackledge to [John Gray Blount], November 3, 1803
27. John Roulhac to John Gray Blount, November 12, 1803
28. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, December 27, 1803

LETTERS FOR 1804

1. John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount, January 3, 1804
2. Ann Harvey to John Gray Blount, August 3, 1804

JOHN GRAY BLOUNT PAPERS

LETTERS FOR 1805

1. John Gallagher to John Gray Blount, January 10, 1805
2. David Pidge to John Gray Blount, February 2, 1805
3. John Gaylard to John Gray Blount, February 2, 1805
4. William Sheppard to John Gray Blount, February 7, 1805
5. Samuel Gerock to John Gray Blount, February 19, 1805
6. Taylor & Justice to John Gray Blount, February 26, 1805
7. John Gaylard to John Gray Blount, April 14, 1805
8. John Gray Blount to John Haywood, April 15, 1805
9. Richard Tuck to John Gray Blount, April 20, 1805
10. William Polk to John Gray Blount, April 26, 1805
11. Thomas Richards to John Gray Blount, May 4, 1805
12. James S. Ritchie to John Gray Blount, June 19, 1805
13. William Richard to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1805
14. Alexander Miller to John Gray Blount, July 2, 1805
15. John Mayo to John Gray Blount, July 9, 1805
16. John Gaylard to John Gray Blount, August 2, 1805
17. John Gaylard to John Gray Blount, September 2, 1805
18. John Gaylard to John Gray Blount, October 21, 1805
19. John Gaylard to John Gray Blount, November 3, 1805
20. David Greene & Son to John Gray Blount, November 16, 1805
21. John Gaylard to John Gray Blount, December 30, 1805

LETTERS FOR 1806

1. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, January 2, 1806
2. Richard Tuck to John Gray Blount, January 28, 1806

LETTERS FOR 1807

1. Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, January 17, 1807
2. G. Toole to John Gray Blount, February 7, 1807
3. Benjamin Tyler, Jr., to Thomas Blount, February 13, 1807
4. William Tatham to John Gray Blount, February 19-20, 1807
5. Samuel Pate to John Gray Blount, February 22, 1807
6. William Tatham to John Gray Blount, March 4, 1807
7. Thomas Trotter to John Gray Blount, April 14, 1807
8. William McKenzie to John Gray Blount, May 6, 1807
9. Benjamin Tyler, Jr., to John Gray Blount, May 25, 1807
10. Peter Lalanne & Co. to John Gray Blount [printed form letter], July 1, 1807

11. Kimbro Jones to John Gray Blount, July 5, 1807
12. Stephen Miner to John Gray Blount, July 22, 1807
13. John McDonnold to John Gray Blount, August 23, 1807
14. Thomas Blount to Nathaniel Alexander, August 29, 1807
15. Richard Tuck to John Gray Blount, September 22, 1807
16. Richard Tuck to John Gray Blount, October 8, 1807
17. Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, October 25, 1807
18. Richard Tuck to John Gray Blount, December 2, 1807

LETTERS FOR 1808

1. William Blackledge to Thomas Jefferson, February 2, 1808
2. John Gray Blount to William Buck, February 10, 1808
3. Nathaniel Blount to John Gray Blount, March 31, 1808
4. James B. White to John Gray Blount, December 2, 1808

LETTERS FOR 1809

1. J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount, January 29, 1809
2. Marshall Dickinson to John Gray Blount, February 18, 1809
3. W. Bradley to John Gray Blount, February 21, 1809
4. J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount, May 20, 1809
5. John Gray Blount to J. H. Blount, July 2, 1809
6. William Woodfork to Josiah Collins, July 10, 1809
7. J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount, July 19, 1809
8. Joseph Coppinger to John Gray Blount, October 19, 1809
9. Willie Blount to Andrew Jackson, December 28, 1809

LETTERS FOR 1810

1. William Jones to John Gray Blount, January 1, 1810
2. Hugh Jones to John Gray Blount, January 3, 1810
3. Charles Gobert & Co. to John Gray Blount, January 6, 1810
4. George Gordon to John Gray Blount, January 26, 1810
5. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, February 4, 1810
6. William Bell to John Gray Blount, February 21, 1810
7. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, June 14, 1810
8. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, June 27, 1810
9. Samuel Topping to John Gray Blount, July 1, 1810
10. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, July 9, 1810
11. John Gray Blount to John Wallace, July 11, 1810

12. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, July 15, 1810
13. William Tatham to John Gray Blount, July 28, 1810
14. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, August 6, 1810
15. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, August 12, 1810
16. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, September 1, 1810
17. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, September 12, 1810
18. Samuel Topping to John Gray Blount, November 16, 1810
19. Josiah Bradley to John Gray Blount, November 30, 1810
20. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, December 4, 1810

LETTERS FOR 1811

1. W. S. Biddle to John Gray Blount, January 1, 1811
2. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, January 10, 1811
3. W. Barrow to Willie Blount, February 14, 1811
4. Solomon M. Joseph to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1811
5. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, March 18, 1811
6. J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount, May 15, 1811
7. J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount, May 18, 1811
8. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, May 20, 1811
9. Reading Blount Estate Paper, June 8, 1811
10. William Woodfork to Josiah Collins, August 26, 1811
11. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, September 2, 1811
12. J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount, December 18, 1811

LETTERS FOR 1812

1. J. B. Borland to John Gray Blount, January 7, 1812
2. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, February 2, 1812
3. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, February 8, 1812
4. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, February 10, 1812
5. J. B. Borland to John Gray Blount, February 17, 1812
6. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, February 20, 1812
7. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, February 21, 1812
8. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, February 23, 1812
9. Josiah Bradley to John Gray Blount, February 26, 1812
10. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, March 18, 1812
11. Henry I. Toole to John Gray Blount, April 6, 1812
12. Thomas Bell to John Gray Blount, April 24, 1812
13. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, April 25, 1812
14. Henry I. Toole to John Gray Blount, April 30, 1812
15. W. S. Biddle to John Gray Blount, May 5, 1812

16. William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount, May 7, 1812
17. William Blackledge and William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount, May 18, 1812
18. James Taylor to John Gray Blount, May 19, 1812
19. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, May 23, 1812
20. Ed^m Burr to John Gray Blount, June 1, 1812
21. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, Jr., June 19, 1812
22. Jos. R. Dickinson to Josiah Collins, July 5, 1812
23. W. S. Biddle to John Gray Blount, July 7, 1812
24. William Blount to John Gray Blount, July 20, 1812
25. Nathan Tisdale to John Gray Blount, August 3, 1812
26. John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount, August 20, 1812
27. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, September 18, 1812
28. W. S. Biddle to John Gray Blount, September 28, 1812
29. Frederick Brooks to John Gray Blount, October 14, 1812
30. William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount, October 21, 1812
31. John Hill Bryan to John Gray Blount, October 22, 1812
32. John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount, November 6, 1812
33. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, December 6, 1812
34. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, December 9, 1812
35. Ansell E. Cushman to John Gray Blount, December 17, 1812
36. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, December 26, 1812

LETTERS FOR 1813

1. P. Nesty to John Gray Blount, January 19, 1813
2. John Owens to John Gray Blount, January 30, 1813
3. William McPheeters to John Gray Blount, February 6, 1813
4. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, February 10, 1813
5. Peter Schermerhorn & Sons to John Gray Blount, April 24, 1813
6. James Hoskins to John Gray Blount, May 5, 1813
7. Charlotte Murren to John Gray Blount, May 12, 1813
8. John Gray Blount to William Hawkins, May 25, 1813
9. Enoch Sawyer to John Gray Blount, May 28, 1813
10. John Gray Blount to J. O. K. Williams, June 12, 1813
11. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, June 18, 1813
12. Thomas H. Blount to William Hawkins, June 29, 1813
13. Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, July 2, 1813
14. Richard Winslow to John Gray Blount, July 8, 1813
15. Samuel Topping to John Gray Blount, July 19, 1813
16. William Hawkins to John Gray Blount and Thomas Singleton, July 23, 1813

17. Ben B. Hunter to John Gray Blount, July 26, 1813
18. Andrew Joyner to John Gray Blount, August 5, 1813
19. Edward Young to John Gray Blount, August 7, 1813
20. Moses Mordecai to John Gray Blount, August 7, 1813
21. William Watson to John Gray Blount, August 11, 1813
22. Samuel Topping to John Gray Blount, August 27, 1813
23. Josiah Bradley to John Gray Blount, September 26, 1813
24. Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, September 29, 1813
25. John Gray Blount, Jr., to Thomas H. Blount, October 7, 1813
26. John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount, December 17, 1813

LETTERS FOR 1814

1. Ira Hollowell to John Gray Blount, March 4, 1814
2. Nathaniel Macon to John Gray Blount, March 5, 1814
3. William Augustus Blount to Thomas H. Blount, March 23, 1814
4. John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount, April 14, 1814
5. John Strother to [John Gray Blount?], April 26, 1814
6. John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount, May 22, 1814
7. John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount, May 23, 1814
8. Jacob Swindell to John Gray Blount, June 14, 1814
9. John Strother to John Gray Blount, June 14, 1814
10. John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount, June 14, 1814
11. John Fries to John Gray Blount, July 9, 1814
12. John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount, July 21, 1814
13. Pleasant M. Miller to [John Gray Blount?], July 28, 1814
14. John Fries to John Gray Blount, August 24, 1814
15. William Augustus Blount to Thomas H. Blount, August 31, 1814
16. William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount, [August, 1814]
17. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, October 6, 1814
18. William Kennedy to John Gray Blount, October 23, 1814
19. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, October 26, 1814
20. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, October 31, 1814
21. William Kennedy to [John Gray Blount], November 25, 1814
22. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, November 27, 1814
23. John McNairy to John Gray Blount [with enclosure], November 28, 1814

LETTERS FOR 1815

1. William Watts Jones to John Gray Blount, January 16, 1815
2. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, February 3, 1815

3. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, March 22, 1815
4. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, April 17, 1815
5. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, August 3, 1815
6. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, October 4, 1815
7. Edmund Hopkins to John Gray Blount, November 18, 1815

LETTERS FOR 1816

1. William Augustus Blount to William Miller, January 24, 1816
2. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, February 15, 1816
3. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, April 2, 1816
4. John Washington to John Gray Blount, April 27, 1816
5. Everard Hall to John Gray Blount, May 25, 1816
6. J. W. Worthington to John Gray Blount, July 2, 1816
7. William Vines to John Gray Blount, November 21, 1816
8. J. W. Worthington to John Gray Blount, November 23, 1816

LETTERS FOR 1817

1. William Clark to John Gray Blount, January 7, 1817
2. William Gaston to John Gray Blount, January 17, 1817
3. James Trumble to W. G. Blount, February 10, 1817
4. Edward Pasteur to John Gray Blount, February 18, 1817
5. Jacob N. Gordon to John Gray Blount, March 20, 1817
6. Willie Blount to William Augustus Blount, June 3, 1817
7. John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount, June 14, 1817
8. James Trumble to John Gray Blount, July 26, 1817
9. Eli Smallwood to John Gray Blount, September 1, 1817
10. Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount, December 10, 1817

LETTERS FOR 1818

1. Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount, January 24, 1818
2. John Gray Blount to Benjamin Robinson, February 19, 1818
3. Joseph Blount to John Gray Blount, [February] 22, 1818
4. Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount, February 28, 1818
5. Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount, April 22, 1818
6. Burns & Sugg to John Gray Blount, June 14, 1818
7. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, June 14, 1818
8. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, July 9, 1818
9. William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, July 26, 1818

10. Ann C. Blount to Polly Ann Rodman, August 26, 1818
11. John Gray Blount, Jr., to Thomas H. Blount [with enclosure], September, 1818

LETTERS FOR 1819

1. Jonathan Price to John Gray Blount, January 1, 1819
2. J. W. Worthington to John Gray Blount, January 9, 1819
3. Thomas Love to John Gray Blount, January 16, 1819
4. William Matthews and Company to John Gray Blount, February 22, 1819
5. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, March 20, 1819
6. Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount, March 26, 1819
7. Sarah Fullington to John Gray Blount, May 24, 1819
8. Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount, July 24, 1819
9. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, October 3, 1819
10. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, October 21, 1819

LETTERS FOR 1820

1. Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, January 2, 1820
2. William Holmes to John Gray Blount, January 2, 1820
3. J. C. Stanly to John Gray Blount, April 23, 1820
4. Charles Moules to John Gray Blount, September 6, 1820
5. Blount & Jackson to John Gray Blount, September 11, 1820

LETTERS FOR 1821

1. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, January 6, 1821
2. Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, January 11, 1821
3. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, January 13, 1821
4. Thomas S. Singleton to John Gray Blount, January 13, 1821
5. Michael King to John Gray Blount, January 15, 1821
6. Thomas H. Hall to John Gray Blount, January 23, 1821
7. J. R. Donnell and J. Stanly to John Gray Blount, January 30, 1821
8. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, February 1, 1821
9. Blount & Jackson to John Gray Blount, February 15, 1821
10. Thomas Ruffin to John Gray Blount, February 15, 1821
11. Lovett Bell to John Gray Blount, February 16, 1821
12. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, February 23, 1821
13. Arnold Gray to John Gray Blount, February 28, 1821
14. John Hardeman to John Gray Blount, February 28, 1821

15. John Stanly to John Gray Blount, May 4, 1821
16. Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount, May 10, 1821
17. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, May 12, 1821
18. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, May 18, 1821
19. Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount, May 19, 1821
20. Henry Smith to John Gray Blount, May 21, 1821
21. William Polk to John Gray Blount, May 25, 1821
22. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, May, [1821]
23. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, June 4, 1821
24. Wilson B. Hodges to John Gray Blount, June 5, 1821
25. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, June 15, 1821
26. Wright C. Stanly to John Gray Blount, June 18, 1821
27. C. C. Cambreleng to John Gray Blount, June 21, 1821
28. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, June 27, 1821
29. Hamilton Fulton to John Gray Blount, July 13, 1821
30. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, August 3, 1821
31. Joseph Blount to John Gray Blount, August 4, 1821
32. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, September 4, 1821
33. John Hogg to John Gray Blount, September 9, 1821
34. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, Jr., October 12, 1821
35. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, October 21, 1821
36. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, November 28, 1821
37. Thomas Hamilton to John Gray Blount, December 6, 1821
38. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, December 11, 1821
39. Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount, December 12, 1821
40. Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, December 23, 1821
41. Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, December 26, 1821

LETTERS FOR 1822

1. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, January 6, 1822
2. Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount, January 9, 1822
3. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, January 26, 1822
4. Swepson Whitehead to John Gray Blount, March 12, 1822
5. John Gray Blount to Swepson Whitehead [copy], March 23, 1822
6. Swepson Whitehead to John Gray Blount, April 6, 1822
7. Eli Smallwood to John Gray Blount, May 1, 1822
8. Richard D. Spaight to John Stanly [copy], August 16, 1822
9. John Stanly to Richard D. Spaight, August 16, 1822
10. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, August 16, 1822
11. Richard D. Spaight to John Stanly [copy], August 17, 1822

12. Michael Hollowell to John Gray Blount, September 10, 1822
13. William Hill to John Gray Blount, September 21, 1822

LETTERS FOR 1823

1. Archibald D. Murphey to John Gray Blount, March 9, 1823
2. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, March 21, 1823
3. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, April 7, 1823
4. Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount, April 28, 1823
5. Craven Dickinson to John Gray Blount, May 12, 1823
6. John Hogg to Gavin Hogg, May 15, 1823
7. Michael Hollowell to John Gray Blount, June 4, 1823
8. Gavin Hogg to John Gray Blount, June 9, 1823
9. John Gray Blount and Partners to James H. Causten, October 1, 1823
10. James H. Causten to John Gray Blount, November 8, 1823
11. John Gray Blount and Partners to Nathaniel Macon and John Branch, November 18, 1823
12. John Gray Blount to James H. Causten, November 18, 1823
13. Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount, December 15, 1823

LETTERS FOR 1824

1. John Gray Blount to Calvin Jones, January 30, 1824
2. James H. Causten to John Gray Blount, February 12, 1824
3. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, March 16, 1824
4. Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount, March 25, 1824
5. Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount, April 3, 1824
6. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, April 8, 1824
7. Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount, April 18, 1824
8. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, July 20, 1824
9. Hugh Jones to John Gray Blount, August 9, 1824
10. John Hogg to John Gray Blount, August 18, 1824
11. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, September, 1824
12. Ann [Blount?] to Lucy Olivia Blount, September 29, 1824
13. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, October 29, 1824
14. Timothy Pickering to James H. Causten [printed copy], November 19, 1824
15. John Hogg to John Gray Blount, December 30, 1824

LETTERS FOR 1825

1. Robert Jeter to John Gray Blount and C. S. Shepard, February 26, 1825

2. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, March 8, 1825
3. W. Higson to John Gray Blount, April 12, 1825
4. Samuel Leigh to John Gray Blount, May 19, 1825
5. Redding Shipp to John Gray Blount, June 16, 1825
6. Stow & Whittier to John Gray Blount, August 3, 1825
7. W. R. Swift to John Gray Blount, August 9, 1825
8. Peter Lohra to John Devereux DeLacy, October 25, 1825
9. W. R. Swift to John Gray Blount, November 7, 1825
10. Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount, December 8, 1825

LETTERS FOR 1826

1. Willie Blount to Olivia Blount, January 1, 1826
2. James H. Causten to John Gray Blount, January 24, 1826
3. James H. Causten to John Gray Blount [printed copy], March 27, 1826
4. Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1826
5. Thomas Brown to John Gray Blount, August 15, 1826
6. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, October 18, 1826
7. Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount, December 6, 1826

LETTERS FOR 1827

1. Wesley Brake to William Augustus Blount, February 22, 1827
2. Joseph Gales to John Gray Blount, March 20, 1827
3. Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount, April 7, 1827
4. Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount, April 23, 1827
5. Richard D. Spaight, Jr., to John Burgwyn, Thomas S. Singleton, and Edward Graham, April 27, 1827
6. Nathaniel Smith to Isaac W. Hughes (Copy), April 30, 1827
7. Isaac W. Hughes to Nathaniel Smith, May 1, 1827
8. Nathaniel Smith to Alexander Gaston, May 6, 1827
9. Arnaud Rambie to John Gray Blount, May 13, 1827
10. Nathaniel Smith to Thomas L. Carthy (Copy), May 21, 1827
11. James J. Sanford to John Gray Blount, May 25, 1827
12. Isaac W. Hughes to Richard D. Spaight, May 31, 1827
13. Richard D. Spaight to Thomas W. Blackledge, June 10, 1827
14. Richard D. Spaight to Isaac W. Hughes [copy], June 10, 1827
15. John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount, June 21, 1827
16. Isaac W. Hughes to Richard D. Spaight, June 24, 1827
17. Richard D. Spaight to Isaac W. Hughes [copy], June 28, 1827
18. Isaac W. Hughes to Richard D. Spaight, June 29, 1827
19. Richard D. Spaight to Isaac W. Hughes [copy], June 29, 1827

20. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, June, 1827
21. Nathaniel Smith to Isaac W. Hughes (Copy), July 2, 1827
22. Isaac W. Hughes to Nathaniel Smith, July 3, 1827
23. Richard B. Blount to John Gray Blount, Jr., October 5, 1827
24. Thomas S. Singleton, John Burgwyn, and Edward Graham to Richard D. Spaight, October 16, 1827
25. William Gaston and Others to John Gray Blount, November 7, 1827
26. William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount, November 23, 1827
27. Thomas S. Singleton to Richard D. Spaight, November 26, 1827
28. Nathaniel Smith to Thomas L. Carthy, December 5, 1827
29. Thomas L. Carthy to Nathaniel Smith, December 5, 1827
30. Benjamin F. Blackledge to Josiah Barker, December 7, 1827
31. Josiah Barker to Benjamin F. Blackledge, December 7, 1827
32. Benjamin F. Blackledge to Josiah Barker, December 7 1827
33. Josiah Barker to Benjamin F. Blackledge, December 7, 1827
34. Richard D. Spaight to Thomas S. Singleton, John Burgwyn, and Edward Graham (Copy), December 14, 1827
35. William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount, December 15, 1827
36. John Gray Blount to William Augustus Blount, December 16, 1827
37. Joseph B. Hinton to Thomas W. Blackledge, William Augustus Blount, and James O. K. Williams, December 17, 1827
38. Nathaniel Macon to John Gray Blount, December 31, 1827

LETTERS FOR 1828

1. Isaac W. Hughes to Nathaniel Smith, January 6, 1828
2. Isaac W. Hughes to Richard D. Spaight, January 21, 1828
3. Richard D. Spaight to Isaac W. Hughes [copy], January 22, 1828
4. Isaac W. Hughes to Richard D. Spaight, January 24, 1828
5. John Gray Blount to Patsey Blount, February 1, 1828
6. B. W. Daniel to William Augustus Blount, February 8, 1828
7. John Gray Blount to William Gaston, March 3, 1828
8. John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Coffee, March 15, 1828
9. James H. Causten to John Gray Blount, March 29, 1828
10. Thomas S. Singleton, Edward Graham, and John Burgwyn to Richard D. Spaight, April 7, 1828
11. Richard D. Spaight to Thomas S. Singleton, Edward Graham, and John Burgwyn (Copy), May 17, 1828
12. Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount [?], May 20, 1828
13. James H. Causten to John Gray Blount [printed copy], May 26, 1828
14. John Gray Blount to William Augustus Blount [copy], November 28, 1828

LETTERS FOR 1829

1. Jesse Speight to James Manney (Copy), March 30, 1829
2. Michael Hollowell to John Gray Blount, June 16, 1829
3. Jesse Speight to James B. Laroque (Copy), July 26, 1829
4. S. Brown to Richard D. Spaight, August 9, 1829
5. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, August 19, 1829
6. Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount, November 4, 1829
7. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, November 6, 1829

LETTERS FOR 1830

1. Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount, January 21, 1830
2. Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount, January 21, 1830
3. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, February 16, 1830
4. Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount, February 25, 1830
5. James H. Causten to John Gray Blount, March 3, 1830
6. Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, March 18, 1830
7. Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount, March 27, 1830
8. Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount, April 14, 1830
9. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, April 26, 1830
10. Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1830
11. Joseph B. Hinton to William Augustus Blount, July 10, 1830
12. David Barnes to John Gray Blount, July 17, 1830
13. Joseph B. Hinton to William Augustus Blount, July 28, 1830
14. Robert Love to John Gray Blount, September 8, 1830
15. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, September 21, 1830
16. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, October 7, 1830
17. James H. Causten to John Gray Blount, November 30, 1830
18. James H. Causten to John Gray Blount, December 7, 1830
19. John Gray Blount to Joseph B. Hinton, December 13, 1830
20. John Gray Blount to Joseph B. Hinton, December 14, 1830
21. Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount, December 20, 1830
22. Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount, December 23, 1830
23. John Gray Blount to Joseph B. Hinton, December 28, 1830

LETTERS FOR 1831

1. Joseph B. Hinton to the Speaker of the Senate [copy], January 3, 1831
2. Joseph B. Hinton to William Augustus Blount, January 7, 1831
3. J. R. Donnell to John Gray Blount, January 10, 1831
4. Eli Smallwood to [John Gray Blount], January 23, 1831

5. Joseph B. Hinton to William Augustus Blount, February 11, 1831
6. Eli Smallwood to [John Gray Blount], February 20, 1831
7. William R. Gaston to Samuel Smallwood, February 26, 1831
8. James S. Clark to John Gray Blount, March 2, 1831
9. Edmund P. Gaines to John Gray Blount, March 14, 1831
10. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, March 27, 1831
11. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, April 25, 1831
12. Edward Livingston to [John Gray Blount] (Copy), May 5, 1831
13. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, May 23, 1831
14. John Wolfenden to John Gray Blount, May 26, 1831
15. J. B. Beasley to John Gray Blount, August 10, 1831
16. B. W. Daniel to William Augustus Blount, September 16, 1831
17. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, October 16, 1831
18. James H. Causten to John Gray Blount, October 22, 1831
19. G. Dutton to John Gray Blount, November 9, 1831
20. Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, November 24, 1831
21. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, December 3, 1831
22. Form Letter from James H. Causten, December 22, 1831
23. A Form Letter to Congress about French Spoliation Claims, December 30, 1831

LETTERS FOR 1832

1. Isaac Simpson to John Gray Blount, January 22, 1832
2. B. W. Daniel to William Augustus Blount, January 24, 1832
3. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, February 23, 1832
4. John Gray Blount to John G. Roulhac, March 10, 1832
5. James Caruthers to John Gray Blount, March 22, 1832
6. Form Letter from James H. Causten, June 18, 1832
7. John S. Barbour to Thomas H. Blount, July 3, 1832
8. James R. Hanrahan to William Augustus Blount, July 7, 1832
9. Joseph B. Hinton to William Augustus Blount, July 17, 1832
10. James Iredell to William Augustus Blount, July 30, 1832
11. Joseph R. Lloyd to William Augustus Blount, August 4, 1832
12. Samuel Dean to William Augustus Blount, August 23, 1832
13. John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount, October 19, 1832
14. James Alves to John Gray Blount, November 12, 1832

LETTERS FOR 1833

1. Ezekiel Hutson to Thomas H. Blount, January 8, [1833]
2. John W. Guion to Thomas H. Blount, January 18, 1833

3. Jabez K. Harris to Thomas H. Blount, January 20, 1833
4. Robert Love to William Augustus Blount, February 9, 1833
5. John R. Donnell to William Augustus Blount, February 13, 1833
6. John M. Roberts to Thomas H. Blount, February 20, 1833
7. Richard D. Spaight to Thomas H. Blount, February 20, 1833
8. Robert Love to William Augustus Blount, March 26, 1833
9. Ben M. Jackson to Thomas H. Blount and William Augustus Blount, April 2, 1833
10. John Catron to Thomas H. Blount, April 10, 1833
11. Robert Love to William Augustus Blount, May 18, 1833
12. John Owen to William Augustus Blount, June 14, 1833
13. John Gooch to William Augustus Blount, July 10, 1833
14. William Hill to William Augustus Blount, July 22, 1833
15. Robert Love to William Augustus Blount, September 6, 1833
16. Gavin Hogg to William Augustus Blount, November 15, 1833
17. Robert Love to Thomas H. Blount and William Augustus Blount, November 29, 1833

OTHER PAPERS FOR 1803-1833

1. A Contract between Mildred Neale and John Gray Blount, June 12, 1805
2. Will of John Strother [copy], November 22, 1806
3. A Contract for Hiring a Slave, January 1, 1808
4. A Decree Pertaining to Reading Blount's Estate, October 29, 1809
5. John Hill Bryan's Power of Attorney to John Gray Blount, October 21, 1812
6. Articles of Agreement between John Gray Blount and Abraham Satterwhite, January 26, 1814
7. Thomas H. Blount's Bill of Sale to William Augustus Blount, December 7, 1817
8. John Gray Blount's Power of Attorney to Benjamin Robinson, February 27, 1818
9. Jackey S. Blount's Bill of Sale to John Gray Blount, December 30, 1818
10. William Augustus Blount's Purchase of a Slave, March 25, 1819
11. William S. Holmes's Contract with John Gray Blount, January 6, 1820
12. John Gray Blount, Jr.'s Bill of Sale from Willie Barrow, January 21, 1822
13. John Gray Blount's List of Taxable Property, April 1, 1822

14. Sarah Ball and Samuel Richards's Receipt to John Gray Blount, November 7, 1822
15. James Maxwell's Bill of Sale to William Ross, May, 1823
16. Contract between John Gray Blount and William Vines, November 21, 1823
17. Thomas H. Blount's Bill of Sale to John Gray Blount, Jr., February 19, 1824
18. A Circular by William Augustus Blount, October 26, 1824
19. John Gray Blount's Instructions to William Williams, December 4, 1824
20. William Augustus Blount's Conveyance of Property to William W. Rodman, July 23, 1826
21. An Offer of Mediation to Richard D. Spaight, April 19, 1827
22. Articles of Agreement between Richard D. Spaight and Alexander Gaston, May 5, 1827
23. Benjamin F. Blackledge's Account of an Abortive Duel, December, 1827
24. Articles of Agreement between Richard D. Spaight and Isaac W. Hughes, January 18, 1828
25. H. B. Croom's Account of Smith-Hughes Duel, February 22, 1828
26. Agreement between John Gray Blount and the Heirs of John Wallace, September 12, 1829
27. Shell Castle Accounts, September 12, 1829
28. Agreement between John Gray Blount and the Heirs of John Wallace, September, 1829
29. Agreement between William Augustus Blount, B. Runyon, and Bryan Grimes, January 2, 1830
30. Agreement between John Gray Blount and the Heirs of John Wallace, January 12, 1830
31. Report on a Meeting of the Plymouth Turnpike Company, January 16, 1830
32. Report on a Meeting of the Plymouth Turnpike Company (Copy), April 24, 1830
33. Receipt to William Augustus Blount, January 26, 1832
34. Receipt to John Gray Blount from John D. Toomer, March 26, 1832
35. Agency at Washington City, James H. Causten, July 1, 1832
36. Report of the Jackson-Barbour Committee, August 5, 1832
37. Samuel Dean's Bill of Sale to William Augustus Blount, August 27, 1832
38. John Gray Blount's Receipt from Dr. William A. Shaw, October 3, 1832

THE JOHN GRAY BLOUNT PAPERS

1803

Ira Hollowell¹ to John Gray Blount

AT PLANTAISHON Jan 4th 1803

M^r JG Blount

D^r Sir

by m^r Benston I reced your Letter Date Dec^r 31 After waiting for Danils I tried to write you word that I Could git the Corn Down the Dich to Ingls landon [landing] by m^r Jas Gibbs I rote you the 1^d of Jan 1803 which he told me he was Going to washing[ton] the next day to see you on tusday th 4 I heard he was not Gon I then rote this by way of Curretuk I also tride to Get Cap^t williams² to take the Corn up he Could not until he went to washington I also spoke to m^r Emery to Go & see you as his Boat was largier than Danils I entended to have trid to [illegible] out all the Corn but the snow and rainey wether purvented me in that as I had to work out Dors therefor I wish you to send a Boat that will Cary 100 ble at once if to be had it I can git 4 Canos [canoes] I can put on Board 16 ble pur Day you Can send the rice Down by the Boat that Coms after Corn if you think best to save it tho it Cannot be Don til Coms Drier for all the lower side of the Field next to the road is under water & seams likely to Continue which put me behind Hand in my Bisness for I cannot Burn the Brush or split out the reails I want or make no hand of raling of the logs I now see the want of the mill Dich (2) being Don so as to Dreain the plantashon therefore I wish you to be redy when Ever it lise Drie so as I Can work to advanteg to send me all the help you Can spar tho I hope to see y[ou] at Tab Cort [Tarboro court?] as m^r Bell³ has apeld [appealed?] on 2 warints about the road I shall Do the best I Can with my bisnes until I hear from or see you I shal give m^r Bell

¹Ira Hollowell was overseer of John Gray Blount's plantation near Lake Mattamuskeet. Alice Barnwell Keith and William H. Masterson (eds.), *The John Gray Blount Papers* (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 3 volumes, 1952-1965), II, 254, hereinafter cited as Keith and others, *Blount Papers*.

²Hollowell was probably referring to William Williams, a ship captain who seems to have been reared as Thomas Blount's ward. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, 226; II, 326-328, 329-331, 334n, 613-614.

³This probably refers to Sheriff Elijah Bell, whose county has not been identified. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 404.

orders when he finds any one of the subscribers willing to pay & has not the money to take ther nots in your naime on Demand 10 days after Date as I think the money will be much Easer got som sopesos this is only to [illegible] them that you will not make a ginerel warent of the hole of them I [illegible] m^r Bell in his adver^{ts} [advertisements] to give 10 days notis for payment & that it was the last time of as[k]ing & that they mite Expe[c]t to be delt as the law should direct—

meley⁴ has got a Child Eady will want som old Cloths & a blank[et] by the oppertunity plesse to send som [illegible] in the bags you send for the rice

Yours to sorve
Ira Hollowell

Addressed: M^r JG Blount
washington

Benjamin Woods⁵ to Thomas Blount

RALEIGH January 5th 1803

Dear Sir

Since I came to this place M^r John Hogg⁶ has informed me that it has been proposed between you and him that a friendly Suit should be brought in Newbern Superior Court upon two of the bonds given to Joseph Ball⁷ which are now due—that judgment should be confessed at the ensueing term with stay of execution 12 months and that I should act as Attorney for M^r Ball— And I have rec^d a letter from J G Blount Esqr stating the same arrangement and giving his conssett to it—M^r Hogg has accordingly put into my hands the two first bonds and I have

⁴Although Meley and Eady have not been identified, they were probably slaves on Blount's plantation.

⁵Benjamin Woods was a lawyer and a merchant. At one point in his career he was United States district attorney for North Carolina. He frequently represented the Blounts in legal cases. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 14, 20, 28, 432, 440, 453, 460, 467-469, 486, 565.

⁶John Hogg of Hillsborough was a merchant. He, along with his brother James and his cousin Robert, ran a firm that had offices in Fayetteville, Hillsborough, and Wilmington. John also served several terms in the North Carolina House of Commons during the 1790s. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 103n, 565.

⁷Joseph Ball appears to have been a land speculator who was closely associated with the Blounts and their business partner David Allison. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 368n, 467-468, 496, 515, 532, 565.

filled up and here enclosse a writ the [illegible] of which I must request you to acknowledge and by the first opportunity transmit it to J. G. Blount for his and Sharp[e]⁸ Blounts acknowledgement

(2) With a view to Save unnecessary costs I have included both bonds in one writ but if it should be preferred to have a separate judgment upon each bond I can see no objection on the part of Ball altho I can not perceive any advantage to the defendants—

I am dear Sir with respect
your Ob^t Servant
Benjⁿ Woods

Thomas Blount Esqr

Addressed: Thomas Blount Esquire
Tarborough

M^r Simpson

Gavin Alves⁹ to John Gray Blount

Copy

HILLSBOROUGH Jany 7 1803

Sir

In performing my duty to the Trustees of the University,¹⁰ there is no part of it which gives me so much uneasiness, or which I execute with such reluctance as the collection of their monies by compulsory means; and more especially where such means may be the cause of much inconvenience or distress to the party concerned, or in any way hurtful to his feelings—The step which I have been obliged to take with regard to

⁸Sharpe Blount (1771-1810) was a younger half-brother of John Gray, Thomas, and William Blount. In 1794 he married Penelope Little and farmed on the family estate. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xxix-xxx.

⁹Gavin Alves was originally Gavin Hogg. He was the son of the merchant James Hogg. Gavin's and his brother Walter's surnames were changed in 1786 by the General Assembly of North Carolina, at the request of their father, to their mother's maiden name—Alves. The two brothers established a business at Hillsborough. Gavin was treasurer of the University of North Carolina from 1795 to 1809. R. D. W. Connor (ed.), *A Documentary History of the University of North Carolina, 1776-1799* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2 volumes, 1953), I, 187n.

¹⁰The university referred to is the University of North Carolina where John Gray Blount's sons attended college. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 232-233, 269n, 276, 286-287, 332n, 337, 378n, 398, 406.

your debt has placed me therefore in a very disagreeable situation; but necessity compelled me to sacrifice inclination to duty.

In reporting upon this business to the Trustees at their last Meeting, which I was necessarily obliged to do, as also to state to them the returns made by the Sheriffs, I was directed to suspend, for the present, the issuing of more Executions, and in the mean time to write to yourself & M^r Harris¹¹ on the subject, as it is altogether against the inclination of the Trustees to subject you to difficulties: they wish only to be secure as to the debt—I spoke to M^r Harris at Raleigh, who told me he made no doubt you would in a short time be able, without much inconvenience, to discharge the debt. Of this he said he could not speak with certainty; but should it happen to be otherwise, he himself would without failure pay it during the year—

I would now beg leave to be informed from you, at what time you can, with certainty, make payment, as it is my earnest wish to be relieved from the necessity of again having recourse to the disagreeable measures already taken—You will oblige me by an answer as soon as convenient—

I have paid the costs incurred in
this Suit, amounting to £4.17.4—

I am Sir
your's respectfully
Gavin Alves

HILLSBOROUGH Feby 20 1803

Sir

The foregoing is a copy of a letter I wrote you by Post about the beginning of January; but fearing you may not have received it, as I have not been favored with an answer, I now take the liberty of sending the Duplicate—As all delays in the money matters of the University are highly injurious to that Institution, I must again request the favor of an answer by first Mail, as I must remain uncertain how to act until I hear from you—

I can entertain no doubt of the
Costs being speedily refunded—

I am Sir
yours respectfully
Gavin Alves

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
Beaufort County
N.C.

¹¹ Mr. Harris probably refers to Edward Harris, longtime friend of the Blounts and sometimes their business partner. In 1802 and 1803 Harris served in the House of Commons for New Bern. He was also a judge in the superior court of law and equity from 1812 to 1813. John L. Cheney, Jr. (ed.), *North Carolina Government, 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History* . . . (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 245, 247, 360, hereinafter cited as Cheney, *North Carolina Government*.

John Wallace¹² to John Gray Blount

[January 10, 1803]

John G. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir,

your Several Letters came to hand, I Should wrote you by John hall.¹³ But had previously wrote Per Salter for every thing I wanted by him—Respecting Grove Wright¹⁴ and our coffe I had heard nothing of it at that time, Since then your Letters Informed me he had Sold at 22-100 Pble a 60. days [22 cents per barrel @ 60 days?]. I have therefore drawn in your favour for \$750 Payable at 30 days as you informed me Such a Bill can be negotiated for cash; I wish Something else Beside Lumber to Put on Board of Lingo¹⁵ I Shall have here for his cargo from 25 to 30 m [thousand] Staves. half red and half white with an equal Proportion of heading also Ill be able to Procure from 10 to 12 Barrils of oyl in the room of fish wich is not to be had [Illegible proper name] will give you 130 dollars 30 for Lingo and 100 for your Self if Lingo reced any further Sum youll be please to Lett him have it or if he wishes to have Some in newyork Ill furnish him with a draft when he comes, Please to have Procured and Sent 30 oyl Barrils to cape hatteras I have coopers here and can have all the barrils we need for our fisheries made here Pinckhams is all ready as the cape will need the Barrils Soon any ale I may receive of wright will communicate the same to you reffers for Particulars to the Bearer. all the family is well, hope this will meet yours the same

I am respectfully
yours

John Wallace

10th January 1803

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

¹² John Wallace was a business partner of the Blounts. He managed a store and warehouse and directed a lightering operation at Shell Castle, on Shell Island near Ocracoke Inlet. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 97n; III, 59n.

¹³ John Hall was a big-time land speculator. He and John Gray Blount worked together in the buying and selling of huge tracts of land. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 43n.

¹⁴ Grove Wright was a merchant in Greenville, North Carolina. He and the Blounts were involved in numerous business dealings with each other. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 242n.

¹⁵ Captain Cornelius Lingo, who appears frequently in the Blount papers, was a ship captain for the Blounts. No other information has been found about him.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*TARBOROUGH 12th Jan^y 1803

Dear Sir,

My Cotton Gin, which is now cleverly at work, & has, as yet, work enough to do, has so engaged to my attention that I have not been able to gratify the strong desire I had to see you—the reason why I cannot now leave home is, that I have no person to attend at my Gin & receive Toll in my absence—& besides I have undertaken to repair the old landing leading up the Street on which I live, for which I am to get \$133, a Sum that I am in great want of, & my logs being already cut & part of them on the Spot, I expect, by remaining at home, to accomplish the work by the middle of the week after next. The Information given me by William Person¹⁶ concerning your Land in Tennessee is this—He says you have a Tract on Spring Creek cont. 7000, or 7200 acres on a part of which lives a M^r Roseberry who derived his title from Major Buchanan¹⁷—that Roseberry told him, (Person) not knowing that he was of your acquaintance or would ever See you, that he knew the Land belonged to you, but he did not care for that as you never could get it because you could not establish your Beginning corner, which Should be Sixty poles from a large spring, & there were on the land two Springs of that description—So that you would never find out which you (2) ought to begin at, as the corner Tree was actually cut down & there existed but one man besides himself who knew & could tell where it had Stood and that man, whose name was Jennings, would not tell for less than \$1000. Person says the Tract is very valuable, & particularly the part claimed by Buchannan, who lays claim to, & has possession of a considerable part besides that Sold by him to Roseberry; and that Roseberry appears to be an honest man whose Simplicity & good nature have made him a fit tool for a Set of the basest Rascals he ever knew. He believes from what he saw & heard of Jennings that he is also a tool to the Same party, but of that he is not Sure; & supposes it would be well to make timely & proper application to him for the important Secret which he possesses. Person Says that the practice of cutting down old corners & making new ones is a very common one; that most of the men best acquainted with old corners are kept in pay by those Rascals whose Interest it is that they

¹⁶William Person was apparently a brother of the famous North Carolina political leader Thomas Person. William was obviously involved in Tennessee land speculation. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, 387n.

¹⁷This is probably a reference to John Buchanan, a member of the Loyal Land Company and an early Tennessee pioneer. Thomas P. Abernethy, *From Frontier to Plantation in Tennessee: A Study in Frontier Democracy* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1932), 202, hereinafter cited as Abernethy, *From Frontier to Plantation*.

Shall not be found—and that every owner of Land in that Country who does not reside there must expect to be defrauded in that, or Some other way—Major Gatton made a Similar observation to me & Swore that every non-resident who did not regularly visit the Country & see his Lands once a year would, sooner or later, be cheated out (3) of every acre. John Hogg desired me ask you to inform him at what price you would engage to deliver him 500 or 1000 Barrels of Tar & Staves enough to Store with them, at Wilmington—and what would be the difference in price if delivered at Washington, or Shell Castle—I don't recollect the time within which he wished them delivered but I know it was Soon—Public employment really is far from being an object of my desire—indeed I am Solicitous to avoid it. but I am sensible that I must either offer for Congress—go to the assembly—or loose the little Influence I have heretofore had at all Kinds of Elections; & to preserve the latter, which I consider necessary to my Country's good, I suppose I must determine to do the former—I however do not wish to commit myself by a public Declaration until I shall better See how I am to extricate myself from my present pecuniary difficulties which are great & encreasing—for to-day I have been notified that the other \$200 borrowed to pay Turner must be returned at our Feb^{ry} Court and I can raise no Cash on Notes, negroes, Lands, or any thing else. It will take my Cotton to pay E. Hall¹⁸ the money I borrowed of him to pay Ross & Parker—and I owe money to M^r G—who is really in great want of money & therefore cannot accept a payment in Notes pay^{ble} 1 Jan^y next & it is for Such Notes only that I can sell land. (4) at this moment I am distressed beyond measure by my inability to comply with my promise to H. Hill, who is about to remove to Georgia & therefore can no longer indulge me—If he would take negroes I should be easy—but he has already purchased as many of them as he will want, & nothing but money will Satisfy him—In order to meet the Judg^t which Ball is to get, is it not proper & necessary for us to take measures in time for disposing of some of our western Lands? and if you Shall be of opinion it is, how can that matter be best managed? I have yet many things to talk about with you, but my Letter is already too long & I must close it. We are all well & send Love, Comp^{ts} &c.

Yours as heretofore
Tho. Blount

[No address]

¹⁸This was Edward Hall, wealthy planter and sometimes merchant of Tarboro. According to the 1790 census he owned eighty-six slaves. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 282n; *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: North Carolina* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), 55, hereinafter cited *The First Census of 1790*.

William Shannon¹⁹ to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a January 31 1803

Esteemed friend

Herewith inclosed is an account current between us; which would make me more happy if it was more advantageous to you. Lumber of late, and particularly Shingles have been very low here for a considerable time—It is at no time advisable to send small shingles here as they are not consumed in this country, & seldom exported in large quantities—the 3 feet will do again at some period not very remote if we could learn to make them as good as they do in some other places. I have made every attempt to find out your runaway Negroes, but have not yet succeeded, I have still some hopes if they are not left this place of finding them. Your Oil Stone is undergoing a trial, of this you will be informed probably in my next. I have spoken to M^r Ball since you last wrote me & from all I can learn things will remain in Status quo this Winter. I hope your family are recovered from the calamitous visitation of last summer, and that this will find you all happy & well—I have nothing new or strange—Please make my compliments to all friends & believe me to be

Your real friend
& very Hb^e Servant
W^m Shannon

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

Mail North Carolina [Attached account omitted]

Benjamin Blackledge²⁰ to John Gray Blount

BATSCHERRE²¹ [illegible] Feby 7 1803

Dear Sir

In the months of August and September last I wrote you—under cover to Jno Wallace Esquire—the first I presume is to hand—having rec^d an

¹⁹William Shannon, Philadelphia businessman and modest speculator in land, did considerable business with the Blounts and participated with them in a number of commercial ventures. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 220n.

²⁰The families of Richard Blackledge and of the Blounts were closely associated in many business enterprises. Benjamin Blackledge was one of the sons of the Richard Blackledge who started a mercantile business with Jacob Blount, John Gray's father, on the site of Washington in 1791. Benjamin Blackledge's two brothers were Richard and William. The two families maintained their close relationship for years. Benjamin Blackledge was active

answer from the Governor to the one wrote him by the same oppty—

Since that time we have had but few changes—or not so many as might be expected in a Colony in State of Revolution—The whites have been gaining ground continually—and at this time is in general possession of all the Low Country—there is yet a few negroes in the mountains—but without force to do any great injury—and Security is so much established—that Commerce (tho yet dull) begins to wear a better aspect—and the Lumber of your State in tolerable demand—and great quantitys wasted for repairs of the Estates—and will in Six or Eight Months be in greater [demand] than now—by that time the present Crops will be made (2) and the planters have means of payment—at present they are very poor—the Lumber Shipped here should be principally Boards & Shingles—with a small part Scantling of different Sizes—

Inclosed you have a price Current of this day—The Colonial produce is much higher now than it will be in Two Months—as the New Crop is now commencing—In the mean time remember me to M^{rs} Blount & family in particular—with my Compliments to my friends in general—accept Sir my best wishes for your wellfare—and believe me

Yours Sincerely
Ben Blackledge

John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
N^o Carolina

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington
N^o Carolina

P^r favour of
Cap^t S. Jasper

[Attached price list omitted]

in business in the West Indies, apparently serving as the Blount brothers' agent there. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 3n, 86n.

²¹ Basseterre, incorrectly spelled *Batscherre*, refers to one of the principal cities on the West Indian island of St. Christopher (called St. Kitts by the British), for the island does have a mountain range, and Blackledge refers to mountains in this letter. The great slave revolt led by Toussaint L' Ouverture in Saint-Dominique (1791-1804) resulted in an end to slavery, the elimination of French control, and the restoration of the ancient Indian name of Haiti for part of the island country. In all likelihood the slave revolt of Saint-Dominique had spilled over into St. Christopher where Blackledge was carrying on his mercantile activities. Carl and Roberta Bridenbaugh, *No Peace beyond the Line: The English in the Caribbean, 1624-1690* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1972), 31, 182; Richard S. Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies, 1624-1713* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1972), 31-32; Eric Williams, *From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean, 1492-1969* (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1970), 194, 239-254.

James Armstrong²² to John Gray Blount

Feb^y the 22^{ed} 1803

M^r Blount

I am informed by my brother that you are much in want of mony at this time & I am sorry that it is not in my power to be upon any certainty about haveing of any by the time you want it tho I am so anxious to take my Note up that I would Let a Negro boy to pay you as it appears to be hard to get money at this time by Labour a lone, I am in hopes that you will take my boy as I have not the mony and cant know where I could borrow it, you shal have the Boy at three hundred & Fifty Dollars which I think is a reasonable price for such a boy, he is a good tractable boy of sixteen years oald and well grown I hope you can make some turn If you take the boy to sattisfy M^{rs} Harvey, I hear that Herriage has try^d to get our note purely for the purpose of Distresing of us, tho I hope M^r Blount you will not Let it go where that is the case as I shall not mind a disadvantage to pay you—I have no more to add, only remain yr^s resp^t

respectfully &c
James Armstrong

M^r John G. Blount

Addressed: M^r John G. Blount
Washington

p^d

by Caswell

John Grimes to John Gray Blount

[March 23, 1803]

M^r John Blount

Sir

M^{rs} Thomas Worsley²³ had stuck a penknife into her hand, just above her pulse, and Bleeds to such a degree that she cannot stop it, she request me to inform you of it, and to be so kind as to send the Doctor that

²²This might have been the same James Armstrong who served one term in the North Carolina House of Commons (1789) and one term in the North Carolina Senate (1790). Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 223, 224.

²³Mrs. Thomas Worsley, mentioned several times in the Blount papers, was obviously a friend of the family. Her husband is listed in the federal census of 1820 as the head of a

you may approve of, Immediately to her relief—your Compliance will Oblige your (2) Obed^t Serv^t

Jn^o Grimes

Wednesday
23 March 1803

Addressed: M^r John Blount
Merch Washington

Sharpe Blount to John Gray Blount

BLOUNT HALL April 8th 1803

Dear Sir/

I have to inform you that I have been served with the Writs for the Money due from you to the Estate of John Porterfield,²⁴ writs to be returned to the next Court at Fayetteville—You are I hope prepared to meet the Debt, and I suppose that you and Reading²⁵ have both been Served with them also before this time—As to the business which M^r Woods had to do and you wrote me respecting of, I Saw Woods but he had not the papers, but said he would send up the Writ to me which However he has not done If you are not prepared to meet the Debts you owe to Porterfields Estate—I hope you will make such arrangements as will Secure me at all events—which I am certain I need not mention to you If you live and have no disappointments—We are all well and join in Compliments to you and family—

I am Dear Sir
Yours &c
Sharpe Blount

M^r John G Blount

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount
Washington

household of four in Beaufort County. Dorothy Williams Potter (comp. and ed.), *1820 North Carolina Census: Supplemented from Tax Lists and Other Sources* (Tallahoma, Tenn.: Published by Dorothy Williams Potter, 1970-1974), Beaufort County, 48, hereinafter cited as Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census* with appropriate county and page number.

²⁴John Porterfield of Fayetteville was associated with the Blounts as one of their land agents. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 1n.

²⁵Reading Blount was a younger brother of John Gray Blount. He had a distinguished military record as an officer in the Continental army during the Revolutionary War. In 1800 he was elected a major general of the North Carolina militia and was usually called "General Blount." Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xiv-xvii, xxiv-xxv.

Pleasant M. Miller²⁶ to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE April 16th 1803

D^r Sir

Nothing could have happened more unexpectedly than your letter, I had supposed you would have written, but had given out that Idea, however I hereby acknowledge the Receipt of yours of the 21st of March 1803. and do by these Presence, release and quit claim, to, and discharge you from any farther claim or demand either in law or equity, either that I now have or might have had by virtue of my said first letter dated March 21. 1801. I have given this formal release altho I believe you might have pleaded the statute of limitations, so far then sir we are as we began the world even—you ask me what the western people will do in case the spaniards should continue their present conduct I answer by what they have done. conduct themselves as good citizens should do. go to war when ever no other alternative is left us, we are not so hot for war as to take any decisive steps without the approbation of the general Government, I believe there is not a thought to the contrary in this Government. the poor Feds [Federalists] if we do nothing that is reprehensible will be woefully disappointed. they come (2) completely within Tom Pains description of Prophets—the death of M^{rs} Blount²⁷ & its consequences as it respects me can best be told by them who have Experen^d the like—however I believe I can weather it as well as most people, tis one of my creeds to do what I am bound to do either from propriety or necessity with dispatch and cheerfulness. I think it sets easiest that way—In the course of Eighteen months I shall pay a visit to the North State, I believe I can settle my claims best in that quarter myself. or shall I leave it untill I put things in some tolerable arrangement give my kind love to your wife & children, I think really you had better all bundle up & come out, this Country bids far for Excellence, who knows what may happen if the

²⁶Pleasant M. Miller was a Knoxville businessman and politician. He was closely associated with the Blounts through his marriage to William Blount's daughter. After 1815 Miller led the faction in Tennessee politics that promoted the political fortunes of Andrew Jackson. In 1823 Miller was in the Tennessee House of Representatives. When Jackson became president in 1829, he appointed John H. Eaton as secretary of war, and this appointment turned Miller into a Jackson opponent. Besides his political activities, Miller is remembered for selling a forty-acre site in 1825 that became the campus of the University of Tennessee. Stanley J. Folmsbee, Robert E. Corlew, and Enoch L. Mitchell, *History of Tennessee* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 4 volumes, 1960), I, 293-294, 312-313, 446, hereinafter cited as Folmsbee and others, *Tennessee*.

²⁷William Blount's wife, Mary Grainger Blount, died in November, 1802. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, xvi.

French take possession of the west?—your fears are I assure you groundless, I do not believe there are a people on earth so firmly attached to their government as the people of this state are their can be no danger from intrigue on that ground—

(3) We in this state are making great Exertions toward schools—we shall have one at this place in a short time upon an Excellent plan—suppose John²⁸ Finishes Education here—

Pleasant M Miller

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Washington
North Carolina

Peter Mallett²⁹ to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE April 30th 1803

Dear Sir

I received your letter by the Docter as I am Just leaving this place. I thought it best to inform you that I shall be at Wilmington all the Sup^e Court term. and Suppose you will Judge it best that I have that old paper then to shew as if Settled long ago. M^r Jones to whom alone I have Spoken to on the Subject will perhaps write you he thinks I cannot with Safety pay you the balance but I dont see so great a danger yet.

I have discover^d an account made up between your brother & myself 1789 makeing a balance then £827. 12 dottars [*sic*] of you will without doubt find that with the rest the papers. we calculated Interest the old way. I think a payment to Tewkes or Burgwin of about £300 depreciated money & that to James Moore³⁰ may be all that is not included in your Statement. I shall be unwilling to take the new mode of Interest untill the time it become custom by the Federal Court which formed the present mode. I hope y^r will find all the Statements I have mention^d and in case I can be Safe am willing to become your Debtor if so little time

²⁸This seems to be a reference to John Gray Blount, Jr., who, along with his brother Thomas Harvey Blount, was attending the University of North Carolina about this time. See 1803, n. 10.

²⁹Peter Mallett was a Wilmington merchant involved in numerous mercantile ventures. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 35n.

³⁰James Moore was a member of the prominent Moore family that lived near Wilmington. His father, James, Sr., was one of the heroes of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge in 1776. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 170.

(2) must be lost. the first bargain with James Moore was 1000 Dollars but if I remember their was more land then your brother expected and that James & himself settled it with W.B.³¹ that I was to pay 200 more and that I accordingly gave him Moore, an order on the Clerk Hillsboro for that Sum—all these things are only from memory I may be mistaken and my papers mostly lost—if M^r Blackledge³² comes you will please to authorise him to act. perhaps some obligation may be required that you refund should Toomes or Ancrums heirs recover from me or serve letter of Indemnification

Sincerely I am yours &^c
P Mallett

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r P. M
Washington

Willie Blount³³ to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE May 12th 1803

Dear Sir,

I have received of Robert Searcy two hundred dollars being the amount of the Bill which M^r Oliver Smith³⁴ drew in my favor, and having a use for one hundred and fifty dollars more to pay your taxes, and M^r Smith saying he could with convenience advance that sum I have received it of him here and have drawn a Bill of this date on you in his favor for the one hundred and fifty dollars—I shall write you in the course of a few days by Cap^t Maderis or Major Davis when I think I can say something of a tolerable straight way of finding the beginning of the 7,200 acre tract: at present I can only say that Jennings is in Town on the Jury and Gen^l Robertson³⁵ is to talk with him, I have informed the

³¹This reference is to William Blount, who had made a bargain for western land with General James Moore's heir, also named James Moore. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 170.

³²This reference could be to any one of the three Blackledge brothers (Benjamin, Richard, or William), but here it is probably to William, who was the most active in land speculation with the Blounts. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 86-87.

³³Willie (pronounced Wylie) Blount was half-brother to William and John Gray Blount. After serving as William's secretary in Tennessee, he became a prominent lawyer, governor, and political leader. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 94n.

³⁴This might refer to Oliver Smith of Greenville, a merchant with whom the Blounts had some business dealings. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 186.

³⁵James Robertson (1742-1814) was born in Virginia and was a prominent figure in the early settlement of Tennessee. Moderately active in politics, he served two terms in the North Carolina General Assembly and was appointed by William Blount (while Blount

Gen¹ what M^r Person³⁶ told respecting it—I do not think the land conveyed to my sister Harvey³⁷ by Armstrong³⁸ has any spring on it, the large spring you supposed was on it is very near to the North East corner of the tract granted to Gen¹ Armstrong, his grant includes it only a few poles—Please say to my nephew Thomas that I have received his letter and will answer it soon—our young friends³⁹ at Knoxville are well, they are all at school—Present me affectionately to my sister family and relations and believe me to be

yours with gratitude
Willie Blount

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Hon'd by
Cap^t O. Smith

William Blackledge⁴⁰ to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN May 30th 1803

Dear Sir,

Having entered into business with which I am but little acquainted, & having an adversary possessed of great art considerable information &

was governor of the Southwest Territory) as a brigadier general of militia. Governor Blount was aided several times by Robertson in negotiating treaties with various Indian tribes. In 1798 Robertson served in the Tennessee Senate. At the time of his death in 1814 he was serving as an Indian agent to the Chickasaw. Allen Johnson, Dumas Malone, and others (eds.), *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 20 volumes, 1928; index and updating supplements), XVI, 24-25, hereinafter cited as *DAB*.

³⁶For William Person see 1803, n. 16.

³⁷Ann Blount Harvey was John Gray Blount's sister and Willie's half-sister. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xxx; 97n.

³⁸This was probably Martin Armstrong, a surveyor and land speculator in Tennessee. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 115n.

³⁹This reference is probably to the children of the deceased William Blount.

⁴⁰William Blackledge, in addition to working with the Blounts on many business ventures, served in the United States House of Representatives from 1803 to 1809 and from 1811 to 1813. As a member of Congress he showed great concern for Blount business interests and wrote long reports to John Gray Blount on political developments in Washington. In this letter it is obvious that Blackledge was critical of some of President Jefferson's pro-French policies, although he was a Republican. Blackledge died in 1828. *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971* . . . (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1971), 598, hereinafter cited as *Biographical Directory of Congress*.

but little Candor, I feel myself frequently at a loss how the objections he makes to some of the measures of the present administration ought to be answered, and as I am convinced your brother Thomas is master of the subject & expect you will probably soon see him at Washington have ventured to trouble you with a request to get him to inform me upon what principles M^r Jefferson⁴¹ justifies his conduct in repairing the Corvett Barceau,⁴² for M^r Stanly⁴³ says the repairs of this vessel Cost more than, M^r Jefferson sold some of our vessels of the same size for, that she was at the time of repairing a french vessel, & M^r J. under no obligations to repair her, & that it was in plain English a present of so much to his friends the french, further that there was no appropriation for the purpose. objections are made to his turning men out of Office for differing in political opinions with him—Tench Cox⁴⁴ a Tory is put into an Office in

⁴¹ Blackledge is referring to President Thomas Jefferson.

⁴² *Le Berceau*, a French corvette, was captured on October 12, 1800, by the American vessel *Boston* at the tail end of the undeclared naval war with France (1798-1800). The French ship was taken to Boston, condemned in the district court in December, 1800, and auctioned off on January 15, 1801, to Stephen Higginson and Company, which had secretly purchased the vessel for the federal government at a cost of about \$13,000. However, under the terms of the Convention of 1800, signed in Paris on September 30, 1800, France and the United States agreed to restore or pay restitution for all vessels of war captured or destroyed after the date of the signing. Accordingly, Jefferson had the *Le Berceau* restored, but the costs, totaling over \$32,000, far exceeded the value of the ship anterior to its capture. In addition Jefferson agreed to pay the French officers their daily pay during their captivity instead of the subsistence normally allowed prisoners; he did so with assurances from the French government that the United States would be reimbursed. Bewildered as to why the United States should pay to have a French naval vessel restored and reequipped, the House of Representatives asked the president for an explanation in 1802, which he provided. Walter Lowrie and others, *American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States* (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 38 volumes, 1832-1861), class 1 [6 vols.; Foreign Relations], II, no. 172, pp. 428-439.

⁴³ John Stanly (1774-1834), a Federalist politician from Craven County, served numerous terms in the state legislature and was a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1801 to 1803 and from 1809 to 1811. Stanly killed the prominent Richard Dobbs Spaight in a duel in 1802. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1743; Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 281n.

⁴⁴ Tench Coxe (1755-1824) was a government bureaucrat who was loyal to Alexander Hamilton in 1790 but who switched his allegiance to Thomas Jefferson by 1791. Thus he was prominently involved in the in-fighting of the first Washington administration. At the time of the American Revolution Coxe had been reluctant to join the patriot cause and for a time had been considered a loyalist. Leonard D. White, *The Federalists* (New York: Free Press, 1965), 225, 288-290. Coxe's most recent biographer, Jacob E. Cooke, was among the first historians to have access to the Coxe papers, which have long been withheld from scholars. See Jacob E. Cooke, *Tench Coxe and the Early Republic* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg, Virginia, 1978).

Pennsylvania in place of some good old Continental officer—M^r Bishop⁴⁵ of New Haven in place of some person much more suitable, seven eighths of the Merchants of the place having petitioned in favor of the man M^r Jefferson turned out—I should also be glad to be informed where I can get a statement of the am^t collected on the different objects of direct taxation the last year they were collected, & the sum collected on each article in each State if possible—Request him to inform me where I can get Documents, to support the truth of what I am to assert if any are to be had, & to let me hear from him as soon as possible by post or otherwise. I paid while at Greene⁴⁶ the Costs (2) of the two Suits against W^m Pope⁴⁷ amounting to £3¹³8 for which please give me credit—and I instituted a suit the security of T. Hall,⁴⁸ Col. Ruffin⁴⁹ upon the note you put into my hands to Collect—With respects to M^{rs} Blount and family I remain

your Obed^t Serv^t
W^m Blackledge

P.S. M^r Harris⁵⁰ has in his hands a grant to Corner for five thousand Acres of land which he said he had recd from you and should return to you, unless you dire[c]ted the Contrary—M^r H. is now employed against those who Claim under the grant & I am employed by them & want it—will you be so good as to send it to me by him if he has returned it, & if he has not please direct him to deliver it to me, & I will have it taken care of

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

Mail

⁴⁵Samuel Bishop was appointed collector of the port of New Haven in 1802, but he died in 1803 and was succeeded by his son, Abraham Bishop, who held the post until 1829. Leonard D. White, *The Jeffersonians* (New York: Macmillan Company, 1951), 150.

⁴⁶Blackledge was probably referring to Greenville, North Carolina, which is the county seat of Pitt County. However, he could be referring to Greene County which adjoins Pitt County.

⁴⁷William Pope of Greene County was later a member of the North Carolina House of Commons, serving from 1813 through 1820. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 264, 266, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 276.

⁴⁸T. Hall probably refers to Thomas Hall, an Edgecombe County lawyer. Albert Ray Newsome (ed.), "Twelve North Carolina Counties in 1810-1811," *North Carolina Historical Review*, VI (January, 1929), 90. Also see 1812, n. 21, as this T. Hall could have been Thomas H. Hall.

⁴⁹This probably refers to Henry J. G. Ruffin, also of Greene County, who served in the North Carolina House of Commons. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 253, 255, 257, 289, 290.

⁵⁰In all likelihood this would be Edward Harris. See 1803, n. 11.

Peter Schermerhorn & Son⁵¹ to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 20th June 1803

John G Blount Esq^r
Sir/

We duly received yours of 7th Ins^t ppost. enclosing a Bill Lading for Twenty puncheons Rum shipped by Cornelius Lingo pBrig Little Sarah from St Kitts⁵²—We wrote you 4th Ins^t advising of the arrival of the Rum, & desiring your instructions respecting it—As we have not received any directions from M^r John Wallace we shall dispose of it in conformity to your Letter of the 7th Ins^t—

We are with Respect
Your Ob^t Servants
Peter Schermerhorn & Son

Lard 2.75
Pitch 3.37
Turpentine—4\$ brisk
Sp Turpe^e—60 Cents—In consequence of present Scarcity
Rosin—4.25

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Mail

Willie Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE June 21st 1803

Dear Sir,

I received your letters & their inclosures by Oliver Smith and two since by M^r Lawson—their contents shall be attended to without delay so far as they can be effected by my writing to Cumberland from which place I have only a few days since returned and whither I do not calculate on going until the latter end of Summer or fall. When at Nashville I

⁵¹ Peter Schermerhorn was a New York merchant with whom the Blounts did a great deal of business over a period of many years. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 24n.

⁵² St. Kitts was the British name for the West Indian island of St. Christopher. See 1803, n. 21.

saw John and William Donelson⁵³ made known to them your proposal about the Duck river lands holding your instructions in my hand at the time indeed I read the following extract with the preface thereto to them "Extract from Jn^o G. Blount's letter of instructions to Willie Blount Aug^t 12th 1800 respecting a settlement with the Donelsons which I have twice written them shortly after the above date which they say they never received, that is Col. W^m Donelson told me they had not received"

"With respect to the settlement with the Donelsons, I hold the old man's bond for title to 66.666 2/3 acres, and his note for the purchase money of his parts and he owes on account of the Indian purchase about two hundred pounds, that account I always supposed W. Blount had closed as he wrote me—know of Jn^o & W. Donelson if any arrangements were made and what—If W^m Blount has not settled as above supposed, give them up the note for certificates—give them a discharge against the old man's bond for title to land—give them a discharge against my demand for Indian Goods, and give them all the title I have to the 10,000 acres of land on the main west fork of Stone's river which was granted to me on duplicate warrants—these are terms they cannot object to"—neither did they object to, they thought them fair, but after they had so said and I was to execute these instructions on your part William Donelson said, John not being present, that he wished to know of me whether you considered them liable to you for damages in case the land or any part should be lost meaning liable for so much as should be lost as I understood by older titles, locations &^c & indeed generally he Stated it was their father's and not their contract and he did not wish to make himself liable for damage which perhaps he should by receiving a deed for the locating—he asked me my opinion as to his & his brother's liability to you after receiving the (2) deed for so much land on account of locating under his father's contract with you—I answered that I did not know your ideas on that head and I would say nothing about it without your instructions—but as this business had been long laying open you were extremely anxious to have it closed—He said he would sooner abandon the idea of receiving any thing for the trouble he had been at than make himself responsible for damages altho' he believed the land clear of dispute—He was willing to leave the matter unsettled until I knew your wish and if you said or assured them after settling in the way above proposed you would acquit them from being further responsible for any loss you might sustain that they would accede to your proposal as above and look for nor expect any thing more of you than now pro-

⁵³ John and William Donelson were surveyors and land speculators. Their sister, Rachel Donelson, married Andrew Jackson. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 192n.

posed—I engaged to make this known to you and to inform them of your answer.

I made known to Gen^l Robertson what you communicated as from M^r Person—he immediately spoke to Jennings who was in Town but got little or nothing by the inquiry, he says he will be very attentive to it—I did not see M^r Lawson as he went thro' here, which was a few days ago—I will write Gen^l Robertson by post on that subject.

M^r Dillon says that he does not know where a sufficiency of John Rice's⁵⁴ lands lie which are unincumbered to satisfy your demand and that he does not know how you can better get the amount than by trying John Rice's security who I believe was Jesse Benton⁵⁵—him I don't know any thing about, except that he is John Rice's security as appears by the bond—

The man who gave me the following memorandum says he sold a tract of 640 acres to one whose name I do not now recollect but which I can at any time know from him, which he thinks is within your 7200, he asked me if it would not be well to bring an ejectment [ejection suit] against him merely to try the title, if you succeed he will expect the offer from you of the 640 of his which he has sold at the price of unimproved land, I think he meant for less—I told him I should submit his information to you and you would if you established your title thereby do what was right toward him and he need not doubt that—he then gave me the following

“Gen^l James Robertson will observe when he goes to make search for John Patten's⁵⁶ 7,200, that a spring marked C.R.T. stands about 96 poles north of where the experimental line passed Parson Donald's (Robertson had before been up the[re] and made some experiments) and perhaps the same spring where old M^r Donald lives—the tree is a sycamore and is burnt into the ground, old M^r Donald and his son that married M^r Foster's daughter can establish that—that tree had the marks C.R.T.—and John Payton and Robert Thompson if sworn will be obliged on oath to establish the spot, where the marked tree that calls for John Patten's

⁵⁴ John Rice was an early pioneer in west Tennessee, where he acquired 180,000 acres of land for himself, his two brothers, and Jesse Benton, Sr. Rice was killed by Indians in 1791. Andrew Jackson and John Overton bought a claim to some of the Rice land and a lawsuit resulted. Samuel Cole Williams, *Beginnings of West Tennessee* (Johnson City, Tenn.: Watauga Press, 1930), 124.

⁵⁵ Jesse Benton was an early Tennessee settler and was the father of the famous Thomas Hart Benton. Thomas Hart and his brother Jesse, Jr., were involved in a fight with Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812, and Jackson was seriously wounded. In later years, however, Thomas Hart Benton became Jackson's political ally. Folmsbee and others, *Tennessee*, I, 126, 259.

⁵⁶ This was probably Captain John Patton, who had been county surveyor in Buncombe County, North Carolina, in 1797. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 128.

entry stands—they both well know, (3) and so does John Buckhannon,⁵⁷ but Thompson is prevailed on thro' interest and promise to Buckhannon to keep the thing secret—Payton by promise to Buckhannon"—I ought not yet to name the man who gave me the above, I will only remark that he knows all those men well and fully believes all he has stated in that memorandum—I gave it to Gen^l Robertson.

Judge McNairy⁵⁸ wants to know if you can't get grants from your State on those seven missing warrants located on Spring Creek the plots of survey of which are returned to the Secretary's office as you know—he married Mark Robertson's⁵⁹ widow who had those warrants to locate—

I have several other letters to write by Major Davis who goes from this in the morning therefore I must as usually is the case with me when I write you promise further communication at another time—Please present me affectionately to your family and Reading's and to my late brother Jacob's who I hear live at Washington—I am with gratitude

yours

Willie Blount

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

Hon'd by
Major Davis

⁵⁷ John Buckhannon (Buchanan) was possibly the son of the early pioneer who had the same name. See 1803, n. 17.

⁵⁸ John McNairy studied law in the law office of Spruce McCay, a Salisbury, North Carolina, attorney, along with Andrew Jackson in 1784. About four years later McNairy became superior court judge of the Western District of North Carolina, which included all of Tennessee. He named Jackson to the post of prosecutor for the district, and together they migrated to Tennessee. Later McNairy was appointed to a federal judgeship by President George Washington. McNairy and Jackson's friendship ended around 1797, when McNairy did not side with Jackson in a quarrel between Jackson and John Sevier. Robert V. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire* (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1977), 29, 34-37, 41, 44, 51, 53, 75-76, 98, 102, 124, 138, hereinafter cited as Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*.

⁵⁹ Mark Robertson was a brother of James Robertson and apparently accompanied him on his first trip to Tennessee. Samuel Cole Williams, *Dawn of Tennessee Valley and Tennessee History* (Johnson City, Tenn.: Watauga Press, 1937), 342.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*TARBOROUGH 26th June 1803

Dear Sir,

Mr Hughs shewed me your memorandum concerning the purchase of Herrings at Plymouth & I conversed on the subject with Rob^t Armstead who offered Herrings at \$3—and said he would take good 3^d proof S^t Kitts Rum at 80 Cents but had rather have Cash; and I declined making a Contract with him, because I supposed such a bargain would not suit you or, if it would, that you might make it at any time. Col. E. Blount,⁶⁰ Levi Blount,⁶¹ Ben. Blount,⁶² David Clark,⁶³ John & R. Armstead,⁶⁴ & others, are of opinion that the votes of Washington County will be pretty equally divided between Mr K.⁶⁵ & myself—William Blount,⁶⁶ who is said to be great at Elections, & who has been considered by Mr K. as one of his warmest supporters, is a decided & very active friend of mine—the people in & about plymouth are almost unanimous in my favor (2) and I was told that the people of Tyrrel would divide pretty equally—I did not see Trotter, he left Washington Court before I got there, but I have reason to believe he was told by K, or some of his friends, that H.S. Bonner⁶⁷ was in his Interest. I shall go to Tyrrel Court which will sit the 4th Monday in July—should you send your Rum to

⁶⁰Colonel E. Blount probably refers to Edmund Blount, wealthy member of the Blount family who lived in the Edenton area. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 422n.

⁶¹Levi Blount was a politician from Tyrrell County. He served one term in the North Carolina House of Commons. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 232.

⁶²The only thing known of Ben. Blount is that he was living in Pitt County in 1790. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 437n.

⁶³David Clark appears to have been a merchant of Williamston, North Carolina, and a political ally of Thomas Blount. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 309n.

⁶⁴John Armistead was a merchant in Plymouth, North Carolina. He owned 200 acres of land in Tyrrell County. He died in "the Epidemic" that swept part of eastern North Carolina in May, 1816. Robert was presumably his brother. Sarah M. Lemmon (ed.), *The Pettigrew Papers, 1685-1818* (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, projected multivolume series, 1971-), I, 414-415, 418, hereinafter cited as Lemmon, *Pettigrew Papers*.

⁶⁵This is a reference to William Kennedy, a Pitt County lawyer who ran against Thomas Blount for a United States House of Representatives seat in several elections. In this particular election Kennedy defeated Blount and took his seat as a member of the Eighth Congress in 1803. He was also elected to the Eleventh Congress. When Blount died in office in 1812, Kennedy replaced him. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1156; Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 393n.

⁶⁶This is probably the William Blount who served a term in the North Carolina legislature as a representative from Perquimans County. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 136n.

⁶⁷This reference is probably to Henry Bonner of Beaufort, who had been an army officer in the American Revolution. The Bonner family was very prominent in Beaufort County. C. Wingate Reed, *Beaufort County: Two Centuries of Its History* (Raleigh: Printed by Edwards and Broughton Co., 1962), 98, 102-106, 109-110, 115, 117, 120-121, 124, 132, 139, hereinafter cited as Reed, *Beaufort County*; John Hill Wheeler, *Historical Sketches of North Carolina* (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 2 volumes in one, 1964) I, 84, hereinafter cited as Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*.

New York I wish you also to send my Cotton unless you should know of some better Market for it—I wish it sold for Cash & the nett proceeds held Subject to my order—I have here a few Bags more but know not when I shall be able to send them down—please send up my wine when you shall think the opportunity favorable I wish I had requested Schenck to have it put into his Boat, as I know not when another opportunity may offer—we are all well & offer Comp^{ts} &^s

Y^{rs}

Tho. Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^{re}
Washington

Negro Boy
Miles

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 13th July 1803

Dear Sir,

The King of England declared War against the French Republic in form on the 18th day of May—Copy of his declaration, w^h was brought to New-York by the Ship John Morgan, is in this town—this will doubtless tend to enhance the value of our Exports but we have better news than this—our Executive have rec^d official Information that a Treaty was signed on the 30th April between the Ministers Plenipotentiary & Extraordinary of the United States, and the Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Government, by which the United States have obtained the full Right to and Sovereignty over New-Orleans, and the whole of Louisiana as Spain possessed the same—This fortunate & important negotiation was completed in 51 days from the day of M^r Monroe's⁶⁸ departure

⁶⁸When James Monroe, who would take office as fifth president of the United States in 1817, finished his third consecutive term as governor of Virginia in 1802, he resolved to practice law in Richmond, hoping to make enough money to get himself out of debt. In January, 1803, before Monroe could settle down to his law practice, he received word from President Thomas Jefferson that he had been nominated envoy extraordinary to France to help Minister Robert Livingston purchase a site at the mouth of the Mississippi to be used as a place of deposit for American merchandise being shipped down the river. Jefferson, dissatisfied with Livingston's efforts and convinced that the ex-governor of Virginia was the only suitable choice as envoy extraordinary, made the appointment without waiting for Monroe's consent. Monroe was chosen because he had the "unlimited confidence" of the administration, all Republicans, and, most of all, the western people who were so disturbed by the prospect of the French controlling Louisiana. Harry Ammon, *James Monroe: The Quest for National Identity* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1971), 201-205, hereinafter cited as Ammon, *James Monroe*.

from N. York (2) Let the advocates for war say if they can that the navigation of the Mississippi could have been sooner obtained and as well secured by force of arms—surely this must open the eyes of some of the deluded ones who for want of Information, have called themselves federalists, and enable them to see that the administration of the Government is where it ought to be. . . .⁶⁹

[Manuscript torn]

William Ross⁷⁰ to John Gray Blount

LIVERPOOL 26th July 1803

My dear Sir

From the state of warfare we are in you will naturally expect much news, but really in times of most profound peace there never was a greater dearth—You no doubt are acquainted with Citizen Buonapartes intention to invade this Country and on your side the Water are all looking forward with much anxiety for the event, but really it is my opinion he will never attempt it, every one here appears in a perfect state of tranquillity and you seldom hear the circumstance of invasion mention'd but in the way of burlesque—Government however are taking very active measures to prevent it, encampments are forming all along the Western Sea Coasts and the Fleets are all in motion, the people are unanimously invited to come forward, in consequence of which a number of Volunteer Corps are form'd and in case of invasion all must come forward betwixt the years of 17 & 55 "*en masse*," to refill them—all appear quite (2) confident they will give them a compleat drubbing and rather wish, if it is to be, that it happen now as it [will] bring about in all probability a lasting peace—Russia within these few days has begun to express its disapprobation at this Country blocking up the Elbe, they will get no satisfaction from this Government it is suppos'd, as it is generally believ'd they might as well fight all the powers of Europe at once as France only in its present state—A serious alarm took place in Dublin a few days since, a number of persons abt 3000 assembled broke open the L^d Mayors house

⁶⁹The remainder of this letter is about Thomas Blount's cotton. He asks John Gray Blount's advice on the best markets and tells him the price he wants for the cotton.

⁷⁰William Ross was a Washington merchant. When he wrote this letter he must have been on business for John Gray Blount. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 151n.

and took out all the arms and ammunition, they then attempted to storm the Castle but were repuls'd and on the Troops being beat to arms were shortly subdued, in consequence numbers were kill'd; by the exertions of the military another plot of Rebellion has been discover'd, the ringleaders apprehended and a large quantity of their arms (ab^t 30,000 Stands) and ammunition have been found—by Ten yesterday all is again quiet—

Owing to the rivers on the Continent being declared in a state of Blockade all export vent is done away and business in general is very languid, and it is my opinion (3) that Buonaparte is taking a more effectual method for the reduction of this Government, by depressing its Commerce and the amazing expence of arming for defence which he is obliging them to run to by his threats, than he could ever effect by an attempt at invasion—I deliver'd your letter to M^r Lake,⁷¹ he is well and begs I will make his best respects to you, he declines writing you until my return—I had a most tiresome passage to this place, being three months from the time I left you until my arrival, I had the satisfaction however to find all Friends well, and the state of my affairs to exceed my utmost expectation—am in hopes to be with you early in November and to find you all have enjoyed hea[l]th during the Summer You will please present my respects to M^{rs} Blount and to the younger branch of your Family and accept yourself the best wishes of

Dear Sir

Your mo. Ob^t

William Ross

Jn^o G. Blount Esq^r

[No address]

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 30th July 1803

Dear Sir,

On Monday last M^r Kennedy, his friend Miles Hardy,⁷² M^r John

⁷¹William Charles Lake of Liverpool was a merchant with whom the Blounts did business for many years. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, 199n; III, 36n.

⁷²Miles Hardy of Washington County was a member of the North Carolina House of Commons from 1800 to 1803, and again in 1814. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 242, 243, 245, 247, 266.

Roulhac,⁷³ & M^r Jer. Slade,⁷⁴ dined at the House of a M^r Wood, 8 Miles from Tyrrel Court House to which place they were all going—and as they sat at Dinner M^r Hardy told M^r Wood that you had purchased, or attempted to purchase, the claim of Lord Granville,⁷⁵ & that I was concerned with you in the Business & M^r Kennedy added that it was true, & he could prove it—of this I was told the same Evening at M^r Ben. Spruills⁷⁶ by a M^r Mariner of Washington County who was present when the conversation passed & reproached his neighbour Hardy for being a slanderer—on Tuesday Morning, after getting to the Court House, where I found Kennedy & Hardy extremely industrious, I was again told by my friends, who were both numerous & respectable, that such a Report was in circulation & had been circulated by Kennedy himself—whereupon I hastily sketched out the declaratory part of the address which I herewith send you, and after having so done, I went very coolly into the piazza of the Tavern, called the (2) attention of the people and read it to them, prefacing it with an observation, that my name was Tho Blount, that I lived in Edgecombe County which belonged to the

⁷³ Letters from the records of the High Court of Admiralty in the British Public Record Office reveal that the Roulhacs were a merchant family from Bordeaux, France, and first appeared in North Carolina for purposes of trade during the Revolutionary War. Psalmet Gregoire Roulhac, patriarch of the North Carolina Roulhacs, owned a plantation and slaves in Beaufort County. John Roulhac was one of his sons. His daughter, Elizabeth, married into the Blount family. From Beaufort County the Roulhacs spread out through eastern North Carolina and later into the Hillsborough area. Beaufort County, Old Will Book, 440-444; H.C.A. Correspondence, 32/277 Pt. 1, Bundle 8322, xerox copies, Archives, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as North Carolina State Archives.

⁷⁴ Jeremiah Slade was a politician from Martin County. He served several terms in the North Carolina House of Commons and the North Carolina Senate. He was an ardent Federalist. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 236, 238, 241, 245, 246, 251, 258, 260, 262, 263, 265, 267; Delbert Harold Gilpatrick, *Jeffersonian Democracy in North Carolina, 1789-1816* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1931), 208, 213.

⁷⁵ The dispute over Lord Granville's claim had troubled North Carolina politics since the early days of the Revolution. When North Carolina became a royal colony in 1729, George II bought each of the Lords Proprietors' shares with the exception of the earl of Granville's. His share was marked off in land, an area that roughly covered the upper half of North Carolina and that became known as the Granville District. During the Revolution all of this land was confiscated by the state. After the war the Granville heirs brought suit for its recovery, but to no avail. Obviously, it would have been political suicide for the Blounts to suggest that the Granvilles had a legitimate claim to the land. Thomas Blount, as well as his brother John Gray, was particularly vulnerable to allegations regarding shady land dealings. They had been implicated in land frauds in 1798. Tried in New Bern in 1800, they were acquitted, but suspicions remained about their land dealings. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, xv-xvi, 372n; Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, *North Carolina: The History of a Southern State* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, Third Edition, 1973), 145-146, hereinafter cited as Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*.

⁷⁶ Benjamin Spruill of Tyrrell County was a member of the North Carolina House of Commons for several terms. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 202, 203, 205, 206, 213, 215, 220.

same Election district with Tyrrel, that I was a Candidate for the honor of representing that district in the next Congress, had appeared at that place to shew myself to the people & afford them an opportunity to form an acquaintance with me & jud[g]e of my pretensions, and that since my arrival among them I had been told that such a Report was in circulation—and then I proceeded to state what my sentiments & conduct in respect to that claim had been, were & would be—I did not mention the name of Kennedy or any other person—but M^r Kennedy, as soon as I concluded, commenced an address to the people in which he declared that he did suspect that you had purchased or, attempted to purchase Lord Granville's claim & that I was concerned with you in the Business, because I was concerned w^h you in commercial Business—he said his reasons for suspecting you were many & strong—first he knew (3) you wished Lord Granville's Heirs to recover, because he had himself heard you say words to that effect, & you had often been heard to say so by others—that you would be benefitted by his recovering in this way—if you had not purchased the whole claim, it was presumable you had purchased his right to the part you had taken up—& if he recovered, his recovery would give you a claim upon the State for the amount of money you had paid into the Treasury—which was in itself a large fortune—2^{ndly} that arthur Forbes had told him that about 6 or 7 years ago, I asked him, in a conversation about Granville's claim, what he would think of the matter if any man was actually to purchase it—and thirdly that a man of respectability known to all the people of Tyrrel County & then not a mile off—whose name he afterwards at my request, & after much hesitation, said was Jeremiah Slade, was told by Edward Harris, who was largely concerned with you in your land speculation in Hyde County, that the Blounts had sent an agent to England to buy the claim of Lord Granville & that he (4) Harris was to be a partner in the purchase if it should be made—He also spoke of the frauds committed on the Land office & of the suspicion that had attached to us in that Business, but acknowledged we had been tried & acquitted; & that he did not mean to insinuate that He thought us guilty—with the same coolness that I commenced, & proceeded with, my first Harangue, I answered &, I think, satisfactorily refuted & exposed every thing he had said—He then gave another Harangue & I again answered—the result of all our Speeches as well as I could ascertain it was an opinion among the best informed and most respectable people at least that neither you nor I was guilty as charged, & that he had disgraced himself & his friends by making so dirty an attempt to acquire popularity by ruining or injuring our Characters.

These proceedings have suggested to me the propriety of publishing & distributing the enclosed hand Bills—some of which you will please send

to proper persons—persons who will most actively use them—in Hyde, & the lower part of Pitt, & different parts of Beaufort—I shall bring (5) with me to Pitt Court, on Monday, many other copies of it; and as I expect to have much speechifying there on the subject, I wish you could make it convenient to attend—I shall there investigate the charge made against us by E. Harris who I hope will be on the spot. I have more to say to you than can be comprised in a Letter, & I am in haste to attend a muster today in that part of our County which joins Pitt & where all my opposers in this County, if I have any, live, therefore I hope you will come up to Pitt Court on Monday Evening or Tuesday morning—M^r Wood, the man at whose House M^r Kennedy first came openly out & talked of proving (which by the bye he never afterwards openly talked about) is the relation of my friend Patrick, of Neuse, who ought, if he goes down, to know what has passed. you can cause to be made as many Copies of my hand Bill as you may think necessary & sign my name to them—I doubt not but (6) I shall get a majority of the votes of Tyrrel, as B. Spruill, Sam Spruill,⁷⁷ Hoskins,⁷⁸ Trotter, Clayton,⁷⁹ Norman,⁸⁰ John Murphy, Jackson & many other respectable men there are in my favor, & were highly pleased with the discussion that took place—and I think I may reasonably expect to get half the votes of Washington as M^r Hardy has, by ruining his own popularity, much assisted my friends there—we are all well, & send Love to your family with a hope that they are so—I have sent down my Cotton, 2 Bags w^t 528. ^{te} by Brickell's flat, but forgot to send a Cask for some good Rum which I think you promised me & w^h I very much want, as my stock is quite gone. have you written as I requested concerning the disposition of my other Cotton? Schenck⁸¹ starts on Monday next at farthest—adieu—

yours

Tho. Blount

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount
Washington

M^r Brickell

⁷⁷Samuel Spruill was apparently a surveyor who plotted some land for the Blounts. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 536-537.

⁷⁸This was probably James Hoskins of Tyrrell County, who had served a couple of terms in the North Carolina House of Commons. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 237, 238.

⁷⁹More than likely this was John Clayton of Tyrrell County. He, too, served several terms in the North Carolina House of Commons. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 240, 242, 243, 245, 247.

⁸⁰Nehemiah Norman of Tyrrell County had served in both houses of the North Carolina legislature. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 209, 210, 217.

⁸¹John G. L. Schenck was a native of Russia who became a merchant in Tarboro and was sometimes associated with the Blounts in business. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 59n.

*David Clark to John Gray Blount*PLYMOUTH 6th Aug^t 1803

Dear Sir

I to day received your favor of the 4th Ins^t covering Certificates respecting the report in circulation about M^r Thomas Blounts being interested in purchasing the Claim of Lord Granville—We had a Muster at this place to day—I read the Certificates to the Company—I am sure the report circulated, has injured in some measure the Election of Mr. T Blount—

From M^r Kennedys general acquaintance in this County he will have a Majority in it—I suppose from 50 to 100 votes—

I remain with regard
yours Sincerely
David Clark

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Post Master
Washington

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*TARBOROUGH 26th Aug^t 1803

Dear Sir,

I have determined to prosecute M^r Kennedy for slander if I can find that he has used words respecting the Granville claim that are actionable—and therefore wish you to inquire of M^r Harris what words are actionable, & to instruct Tom to inquire whether proof can be had of his having spoken such words in Hyde—I could wish that M^r Orr⁸² would go to Tyrrel for me on similar Business if he is perfectly at leisure, as it is more probable that he can get full & correct Information on the subject than myself—I would furnish him with a Horse and instruct him where to go & who to inquire of—this sort of action must be brought, if I am not mistaken, in 6 months—and as M^r K. will leave the State early in October & remain out of it 4, 5, or 6 months, I have no time to lose. I give you on the other side a Copy of M^r Jer. Slades reply to my Letter re-

⁸²In all probability this is a reference to William Orr, who worked for the Blounts as a supercargo, agent, and clerk in the store in Washington. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 94; III, 299n.

questing him to state to me, in writing, the precise words used by M^r E. Harris to him at Woodstock—by (2) which you will see what a dirty quibbling fellow he is—

[Copy]

Sir,

July 29th 1803

I rec^d your note of 27th Ins^t by M^r M Crae and by the earliest opportunity I take the liberty of stating to you as correctly as my memory will permit what I heard Edw^d Harris Esq. say at M^{rs} Daleys in Woodstock concerning the purchase of the claim of the Heirs of Granville to lands in N^o Carolina.

In a conversation with Edw^d Harris Esq^r on the measures of the former administration and the claims of the heirs of Granville, "he said he was concerned with a Company who had or was about to send an agent to purchase the claim"—or that, "he was concerned with the Blounts who had sent an agent, or that they were about to send an agent to purchase the claim"—

I am sorry that a confidential communication should be made use of to answer Electioneering purposes, But since M^r Kennedy hath made it public with my name, it is not to be expected that I will deny it

I am Sir,

(3) yo. mo. Ob^t
(signed) J. Slade

Thomas Blount, Esq^r

Shew this to M^r Harris & know of him whether I cannot prosecute him (JS) likewise—I have been informed that the K's have threatened to mob me whenever I come to Washington & as soon as I can find leisure, which I hope will be shortly, I shall afford them an opportunity to carry their threat into execution—It is insisted on that I shall continue a Candidate at the next Election & I have consented to do so—M^{rs} Harvey & Polly Ann⁸³ have started this Evening for Bertie with Intention to be

⁸³This refers to both Ann Blount Harvey (Polly Ann), sister of John Gray and Thomas Blount, and probably to her mother-in-law, widow of Colonel John Harvey, a prominent leader during the Revolutionary period. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xxx.

absent from here 'till next monday week—they were quite well as are Jackey⁸⁴ & myself whose best wishes you will please offer to your family, Suckey [Sukey] &^c⁸⁵—

Y^{rs} &^c

Tho. Blount

Alston's⁸⁶ majority was 823—let me hear from you soon as possible

[No address]

James Turner⁸⁷ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH 10th October 1803

Sir

Knowing you to have an extensive acquaintance in the lower parts of this State, has induced me to inclose to you the Copies of two letters, one from the Governor of Virginia, and the other from a person who writes under the signature of John Robertson, for the purpose of getting you to ascertain, whether the person calling himself John Robertson, is really the person he represents himself to be. If he is, the President of the United States will certainly adopt measures to have him restored to his friends and Country. To obtain proof on that subject was the inducement of the governor of Virginia to forward his letter to me, and is the motive for my troubling you at this time.

If on enquiry it shall appear that such a person as John Robertson describes himself to be, has left the neighbourhood he mentions, which

⁸⁴Thomas Blount's second wife was Mary Sumner, daughter of Brigadier General Jethro Sumner of the Revolutionary War. Thomas often called his wife Jackey. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xxv.

⁸⁵Jacob Blount, Jr.'s (youngest son of Jacob and Barbara Blount and brother of John Gray and Thomas) second wife was Susan Harvey Blount, widow of Augustus Blount. Susan was nicknamed Sukey. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xxviii.

⁸⁶Willis Alston (1769-1837) of Halifax County, North Carolina, was a farmer and a political leader among Jeffersonian Republicans. He served in the North Carolina House of Commons (1790-1792, 1820-1824), the North Carolina Senate (1794-1796), and the United States House of Representatives (1799-1815, 1825-1831). *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 511.

⁸⁷James Turner, an educated and able politician from Warren County, was governor of North Carolina from 1802 to 1805. This letter was recorded in the governor's letter book and does not appear in the Blount papers. James Turner to John Gray Blount, October 10, 1803, Governors Letter Books, James Turner, North Carolina State Archives; Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 286.

can be ascertained by the parents he mentions; I must request you to have Affidavits procured, describing and Identifying him, as fully as possible, and forward them to me for the purpose of my transmitting them to the President of the United States.

I am well assured that aiding a fellow citizen in recovering his liberty, will be an agreeable part for you to act, and I hope you will in (2) a manner answer as an Apology, for me, in troubling you, especially when I recollect your polite attention & kind proffer of service on a former occasion.

Should any affidavits be taken I will thank you to direct, that, the Clerk of the County in which the magistrate resides, Certify under the seal of his County, such magistrate to be an Acting Justice of the peace in said County, at the time of taking the same.

Any expence attending having the enquiry made, or procuring the necessary affidavits & their attestation, shall be punctually paid so soon as I am informed of the amount

John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

I am with Sentiments of esteem
your ob^t Serv^t
J. Turner

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
N. Carolina

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON Oct^r 18th 1803

John G. Blount Esq^r

D^r Sir/

Your favor of the 2^d ins^t Covering your brother Readings Grant for lands in the state of Ohio, & also the one of the 6th I have had the pleasure of receiving—Col. Worthington⁸⁸ Member from Ohio has promised to give me all the information & directions necessary on the subject of the Gen^l land, & have no doubt of his candor, as soon as the hurry of looking out for lodgings is a little off & we get settled I shall urge his compliance & communicate the amount of his information—

⁸⁸Thomas Worthington (1773-1827), an Ohio politician affiliated with the Jeffersonian Republicans, served in the Ohio legislature and as governor of that state. From 1803 to 1807 and from 1810 to 1814 he represented his state in the United States Senate. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1958.

As to your old friend Abisha Thomas⁸⁹ I am fearful that nothing can be got from him though have not seen him nor has the person with whom I have talked lately, but the best which can be done with him, I will endeavor to effect—

I intend starting to George town tomorrow with a view to obtaining the information you wish as to shingles &c & if it can be got before the mail starts you shall have the prices at the foot of this—

The Inclosed will not give you great satisfaction I make no doubt, as it shews how illy the Feds⁹⁰ have Calculated, not only about the two million, but also about New Orleans & several other important subjects, I therefore forward it to you, as I fear your immediate representative does not feel quite so strong a desire to communicate grateful information to you as I do—The treaty with France about Louisiana is now before the Senate, but the doors are (2) Closed, and it is whispered that the Court of Spain has objections to our getting the Country from France, because the latter has not Complied with Certain Conditions or the putations which she had entered into with the former respecting the transfer between them—But you may be assured the treaty between us & France will be ratified by our Government—I assure you that I can but pity your friend M^r K for as I live in the Same house & have a good opportunity of seeing how he is situated, & also hear the remarks of those who are really his friends—I can only say that as to myself I would not feel the tortures he must undergo *in the day* for any pleasure which he can possibly enjoy *at night*—There are living in the same house with us—Macon,⁹¹ Alston,

⁸⁹Abishai Thomas was a close friend of the Blounts and served them many times as a land agent. Because of his connections with the Blounts he became a claims agent in North Carolina and chief clerk in the United States Navy Department (1798-1801). His fondness for strong drink and his compulsion to gamble seem to have kept him from furthering his career. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 31n.

⁹⁰This is a reference to the Federalist party, which opposed Jefferson's policies in general. On the purchase of Louisiana, however, the Federalists divided, with many of their leaders eventually supporting the popular acquisition. Marshall Smelser, *The Democratic Republic, 1801-1815* (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1968), 97-99, hereinafter cited as Smelser, *Democratic Republic*.

⁹¹Nathaniel Macon (1757-1837) was a wealthy planter from Warren County, North Carolina. This Jeffersonian Republican was one of the most prominent political figures in the history of the state. Macon served in the North Carolina Senate, the United States House of Representatives (1791-1815), and the United States Senate (1815-1828). During his career in Congress he was for a time Speaker of the House and later president pro tempore of the Senate. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1324.

Wynns,⁹² Stone,⁹³ Doctor Alexander⁹⁴ Also Jno Randolph⁹⁵ of Virg^a C. A Rodney⁹⁶ of Delaware, & a M^r Richards⁹⁷ of the Same State or Pennsylv^a & Col. Wad[e] Hampton⁹⁸ of S^o Carolina & Doctor Tucker⁹⁹ the Treasurer—M^r K his Wife & family have but one Room, & that the same size of the one I occupy, the rooms are good—but as there is no place to receive company we may conclud none is intended to be seen, therefore except the hous hold I presume no others will be able to improve much by their social dispositions, and I really fear that any which we shall derive will not be great enough to entitle us to Congratulation, I shall be particular in giving you from time to time an account of them as I see you feel concerned for them, but as he & myself keep on good terms, you will keep me out of sight—He still affects to be very much Concerned least [lest] the heirs of Granville or rather the speculators should succeed in recovering their lands, while Macon, Alston & Alexander laugh at the idea & beg him not to give himself any uneasiness about it—excuse this scrall for it is written in a hurry, & be assured, that you cannot write me oftener than you shall be answered, not because I shall feel my consequence increased, by the number of (3) Cor-

⁹²Thomas Wynns (1764-1825) of Hertford County, North Carolina, was an active Federalist, serving in the North Carolina House of Commons, the United States House of Representatives (1802-1807), and on the North Carolina Executive Council (1818-1824). He was also a brigadier general of militia. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1963.

⁹³David Stone (1770-1818) of Bertie County, North Carolina, was a lawyer, judge, and politician. Among the posts he held were governor (1808-1810), judge on the North Carolina Supreme Court, state legislator, member of the United States House of Representatives (1799-1801), and member of the United States Senate (1801-1807, and 1813-1814). *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1762.

⁹⁴Nathaniel Alexander (1756-1808) was a physician and a Republican politician from Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. During the Revolutionary War he served as a surgeon. In addition to serving several terms in the North Carolina legislature he was twice elected to the United States House of Representatives, serving in the Eighth and Ninth congresses. He resigned his seat in Congress in 1805 to become governor of North Carolina. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 502.

⁹⁵John Randolph (1773-1833), a kinsman and onetime political lieutenant of Thomas Jefferson's, was among Virginia's most colorful political leaders in the early part of the nineteenth century. During his long career in politics he served in the United States House of Representatives almost continuously from 1799 to 1825, and again in 1833 until his death in that year. He was also in the United States Senate from 1827 to 1829 and for a short time in 1830 was minister to Russia. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1584-1585.

⁹⁶Caesar Augustus Rodney (1772-1824), nephew of the famous Caesar Rodney of Revolutionary War fame, was a Republican politician from Delaware. He was a member of the United States House of Representatives (1803-1805, 1821-1822) and of the United States Senate (1822-1823). From 1807 to 1811 he served as attorney general of the United States, first in Jefferson's administration and then in Madison's. He was also minister to Argentina from 1823 to 1824. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1625.

⁹⁷Jacob Richards (1773-1816) of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, was a lawyer and a Jeffersonian Republican. He served in the United States House of Representatives from 1803 to 1809. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1605.

⁹⁸Wade Hampton (1752-1835) was born in Virginia, but he moved to South Carolina before the Revolutionary War. He served as an officer in the military during that war and as

respondents, but because the pleasure I feel in executing any Commission you may confide to me, & the instruction I derive from your Correspondence far over balance any trouble they occasion—Present me in the most friendly manner to M^{rs} Blount & all the family, and believe me as I am

yours in sincerity
W^m Blackledge

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
Beaufort County
N^o Carolina

Mail

Henry Selby¹⁰⁰ to John Gray Blount

LUMBERTON—October 25, 1803

John G. Blount esquire

Sir

Some of my enemies hath endeavoured to fix upon me the guilt of having played a double game in the preceding Election—that while I was openly professing to befriend Mr T. Blounts election—I was secretly aiding the Election of Mr Kennedy. That such Men as John Jordan¹⁰¹ and others of his grade, who are eternally seeking every stratagem in their power to lessen my reputation should take hold of this occasion to destroy my popularity affords to me no matter of surprise—and as far as it has originated or progressed with them is with me a subject of the greatest indifference—but what hath awakened my astonishment and

a general during the War of 1812. He also served in the Fourth Congress (1795-1797) and the Eighth Congress (1803-1805). The owner of some 3,000 slaves in 1830, he might have been the wealthiest planter in the United States. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1061.

⁹⁹Thomas Tudor Tucker (1745-1828), of South Carolina, was related to the socially prominent Tuckers of Virginia. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and served in the American army as a surgeon during the Revolutionary War. After the war he entered politics, serving as a member of the Continental Congress during 1787 and 1788 and as a Federalist congressman from 1789 to 1793. In 1801 President Jefferson appointed Tucker United States treasurer, a post he held until his death in 1828. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1834.

¹⁰⁰Henry Selby was a politician from Hyde County who represented his county in the North Carolina Senate between 1797 and 1808. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 439n.

¹⁰¹John Jordan of Hyde County served in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1799 to 1803. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 232, 234, 235, 239, 242, 244, 246, 247, 251, 253, 254.

with me real matter of regret proceeds from quite a different ground—I have been informed that you have contributed to the circulation of the same charge—Mr Richard Jordan hath said that you had given an unequivocal assent to the accusation, and insisted upon it that you were in possession of such circumstances that proved, undeniably, the certainty of the fact—Having always view'd you as my Friend, and believing that you neither possess that prejudice or ill-nature towards me, that would incline you to cherish suspicions either injurious or dishonorable to my reputation I am compell'd to go into an investigation of the subject upon the presumption that you may have consented to the slander, from Testimony either absolutely false, or from such (2) presumptive evidence as ought not to have been relied upon. But before I proceed permit me to arrest your patience for although it may be an immaterial subject with you, it is of the greatest importance to me and my feelings that every thing should be rightly understood. To effect this it will be necessary to travel over considerable ground, and to shew plainly the relative situation I stood in with regard to all the Characters that may necessarily come on the stage:

As to yourself your conduct hath been uniformly marked with great kindness—At a period when I could have no claim upon you—you stood forward as my firm advocate—although you resided in the County of Beaufort—you interested yourself zealously in my Election—Scarcely [manuscript torn] Boat or a Canoe that landed at your wharf from this County during the times of Election but brought home some mark of the interest you took in my success—when I was elected and come forward to the seat of Government your attention was equally pointed—Your conduct with regard to pecuniary considerations were generally Friendly—it was such as I was well Satisfied with—if there was any exceptions they were of a trivial nature and such as I would not have remembered when considering your claim upon me—

Mr Thomas Blount I became acquainted with by your introduction—I served with him one Assembly and have frequently seen (3) him in my excursions abroad—I have always entertained the highest respect for him both as a Statesman—and a Gentleman—was well satisfied with his preference over his opponent, and was always firmly determined to give him my vote—and to support his Election—as far as I thought it was my duty—considering my dependant situation with regard to my own popularity—

Mr William Kennedy observing something like an intimacy subsisting betwixt you and me—it was quite sufficient to arouse his prejudice against me—He interested himself warmly in our County Elections—Talk'd frequently with the People and magnified the pretensions of my

opponent and lessened mine—merely because I was Friendly with you and because he presumed that upon the casualty of Hyde County's being added to the same district with Beaufort that I should be devoted to the election of Mr Blount—who he was well aware stood in the way of his preferment as a Member of Congress—And that by destroying my influence He was advancing his own Election—

In this situation stood things when the Election commenced—The first I heard positively on the subject was from Mr Kennedy He made known to me that he was a Candidate, and ask'd my Support in the Election I told him frankly that I should vote for Mr Blount—He then pray'd that I would not violently oppose his Election—I observed that it was neither my duty or (4) inclination to enter violently into the Congress Election, it was not usual for me to do so—That I was bound to give my vote as my conscience approved, and if any of my Friends ask'd my opinion I should freely give it—but further It was not my duty to interfere.

The chief reasons insisted upon, as I have understood—in support of the charge were because Major Wilkins¹⁰²—Capt Chambers Mr R. Martin and some others that have been uniformly in my Election was in favour of Mr Kennedy—Does it follow that because those Men have uniformly supported my Election that they are bound to resign all privilege of choosing for themselves—Those Men are as independent in their opinion as Men generally are, and I have greatly doubted whether a pride they had in being *thought independant* had not too much influence in their determination—For I am well assured that Mr Kennedy did not hesitate to point out to some who profess'd to be his Friends that he much feared the influence I had among the People, would serve to make them renounce him. with regard to those Men I was placed in a delicate situation—Had I have opened my Mouth they would have seen my object—they would have immediately perceiv'd that I wished them to relinquish there opinion and adopt mine—Some of them pretended to advise with me on the subject—I told them how I intended to vote, and impress'd the reasons by which I was influenced—And this I uniformly did when I was spoken to on the subject (5) And this was as much as I did do except when I come athought [across?] Persons going against the Character of Thomas Blount—The calumny made use of by Mr Kennedy & Friends—I did at all times oppose, and explained to the People how it had got abroad—In the mean time I never did speak first to any Person on the subject of elections with an intention to change his

¹⁰²This was perhaps William Wilkins of Edgecombe County, who served in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1820 to 1823. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 276, 278, 280, 282.

mind—this I carefully avoided being as I conceiv'd improper—How far a Silence of this kind is criminal—impartial judges must determine—

From the foregoing you will be able to see the situation I was placed in with regard to the Candidates and their Friends—On the part of Mr Blount I was bound in the strongest chains—The evidence in my own conscience were not to be resisted—no personal considerations could have made me hesitate—Even the obligations I owe you which are confessedly greater than I owe any Man or even any Ten Men on the other side—who were deeply concerned in the Election would not have made me hesitate—had the weight thereof been in the opposite balance—

On the part of Mr Kennedy I had no inducement—except to repay the ill services he had previously done me. From my Frankness towards him I had nothing to hope—I had no doubt added a Ten Fold chain to his former prejudices—My opinion was as decidedly express'd to all his Friends—To Mr Kennedy and his Friends I appeal for the Truth of the foregoing—defying the power of Malice envy & Hatred—arrayed with all its insenuity to bring to the ground a single word

(6) Before I dismiss the subject I must say that notwithstanding the politeness and Friendship with which you have so generally treated me—that had Mr Kennedy in my estimation been a greater and Better Man—than Mr Blount, conceiving that no personal considerations ought to influence a Mans vote—I should certainly have voted for him nor should I have kept my intentions concealed—but would have openly avow'd them—And the Idea that seems to be convey'd in the charge against me—That I was so dependant—we will say on you for I know no other person to whom I am particular[l]y bound—that notwithstanding—I was inclined towards Mr Kennedy's election, and secretly aided it—yet I *dare not* openly declare against Mr Blount—This is but a fair translation of the charge—and it presumes so great a share of servility and dependance that it serves to lessen me greatly in my own estimation—That Men who best know, should set so low a price upon me—

You are here presented with a view of the whole ground and will determine for yourself—and let your conclusion be what it may—as no
(7) Personal obligations to you should make me vote for Thomas Blount against my own opinion—so no ill treatment that I could receive from you should make [me] vote against him contrary to that opinion—

I have the Honor to be
Sir yr mo. obt Servt
Hen. Selby

Addressed: John G. Blount esquire
Washington

*William Blackledge to [John Gray Blount]*WASHINGTON NOV^o 3^d 1803

Dear Sir/

I have made every possible inquiry for your old acquaintance Thomas, & from the best accounts which can be got of him he is gone to Baltimore where he is not able scarcely to get along—he is very poor indeed and I fear from his charcter will never be in a better situation—Not being able to learn any thing by the members from Ohio, either of the value or quality of the Generals lands in that State I have wrote on to the Sheriff of the County of Fairfield in which it lies for information, as to its quality, situation as regards water & water Courses, the price it would sell for in Cash, & whether it is like to rise much in value & from what Causes, also to know whether any taxes are due upon it, & how much if any & have promised to transmit the am^t by Col Worthington one of the Senators who has appeared to be very desirous of serving me, this I attribute to the Friendship he has for Macon who introduced me to him.

The papers have no doubt given you an account of our having ratified the treaty & passed all the laws necessary for carrying it into effect—And according to your predictions the Feds opposed the passage of every law necessary to that purpose almost to a man, there was not any great deal of shouting in our house upon the subject, but in the Senate they have disputed every inch of ground, not one of the Bills but (2) was opposed, the Bill making the appropriations & for establishing the Stock in particular was opposed with great warmth—They urged in the first place that though by the Constitution we were allowed to add new states to the Union that still it was only [illegible] for New States to be [e]rected within the limits of the 13 United State as they were then understood—Hon Major Butler¹⁰³ contradicted them by shewing that he was in the Convention when the Constitution was formed, & asserted that that article in the Constitution was proposed by Gouverneur Morris¹⁰⁴ of New York that the middle & some of the Southern members did

¹⁰³ Pierce Butler of Charleston, South Carolina, was born in Ireland and came to America before the Revolution as an officer in the British army. He was a member of the Continental Congress for two years, was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, and served in the United States Senate during the 1790s. In November, 1802, he was elected to the United States Senate to complete the term of John Ewing Colhoun, who had died. Butler resigned his seat in 1804. He died in Philadelphia in 1822. During his career in the Senate he was a Jeffersonian Republican. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 682.

¹⁰⁴ Gouverneur Morris of New York, a lawyer by profession, had a long and distinguished career as a political leader. He signed the Articles of Confederation, served in the Continental Congress, and performed diplomatic service on several occasions. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention and helped draft the Constitution. A Federalist, he served in the United States Senate from April, 1800, to March, 1803. He died in 1816. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1440.

not like the Article, when it was used expressly as an Argument in favor of it, that in the event of Canada throwing off her allegiance & becoming independant of Britain, it would Certainly be good policy in us to receive them into the Union if they were desirous of it & every Eastern member advocated the Clause upon that very principle—It was next objected that by the Constitution the duties imposts &c were to be uniform throughout the states, & no preference is to be given to the Ports of one state over those of another—and by the Treaty French & Spanish vessels were to be admitted into the ports of the ceded territory on better terms than they were to have in the other ports of the U.S. & French & Spanish goods of course might be imported there on better terms for twelve years at least—The first reply to this was that these ports were not ports of any of the United States forming the Constitution nor within their limits, that true they were ports in a territory acquired, & this preference was properly to be considered as a part of the consideration which we gave for the Country, and we were not by the treaty bound to incorporate the inhabitants & admit them to all the rights advantages & immunities of Citizens of the United States, till by the principles of the (3) Constitution it could be done, & if it should be found that the constitution forbade it, then it might be amended, & there was no doubt but all the states would agree to make the amendment, if it were for no other purpose than to secure to us the benefit of the treaty—But in Order to shew what had been the opinion of the former Administrations upon this subject—The 3^d article of Jays treaty¹⁰⁵ was read whereby British subjects are permitted to import goods into the Ports upon the lakes upon the same terms that American citizens can, in this treaty as also by the Treaty with Spain it was shewn we had acquired citizens, who were enjoying all the rights advantages & immunities of American Citizens without passing any particular act of incorporation other than adopting the treaty—It was next objected that we were giving 15 Millions for a territory which France had not a right to convey, for the treaty of S^t Ildefonso¹⁰⁶ [*sic*] refered to in our treaty it appeared there was only a promise

¹⁰⁵ During the European wars that erupted as a result of the French Revolution, trouble emerged between Great Britain and the United States over neutral rights. The disputes appeared to be leading the two nations into war. John Jay, chief justice of the United States Supreme Court and a seasoned diplomat, was sent in 1794 by President George Washington to treat with Great Britain for a settlement of differences. On the key issue—Britain's recognition of the American position on neutral rights—Jay won no concessions. He did, however, conclude a treaty, which, although it kept the United States out of war, was unpopular with most Americans, especially the followers of Thomas Jefferson. Thomas A. Bailey, *A Diplomatic History of the American People* (New York: Appleton-Century-Crafts, Inc., Sixth Edition, 1958), 73-80, hereinafter cited as Bailey, *Diplomatic History*.

¹⁰⁶ The Treaty of San Ildefonso (October 1, 1800) was a secret arrangement by which Spain returned to France the Louisiana Territory, which France had ceded to Spain in

on the part of Spain to cede to France, and that upon Conditions relating to the Duke of Parma¹⁰⁷ which were not complied with. The answer to this was that on application to the King of Spain about the infringement of the treaty in our right of deposit our minister was informed that Louisiana was ceded to France & liable to our treaty, that in a subsequent treaty between France & Spain the latter speaks of the territory as ceded to France, and further that the French Minister near our Government was now actually in possession of the Orders, under the Signature of the King of Spain, directed to the Governor of Louisiana directing the Country to be delivered; all which went to prove that the King of Spain either Considered the Conditions of the treaty of S^t Idelfonso fulfilled or had rec^d some recompence for it. It was then urged that though this was true yet it was equally so, that Spain was very averse to our getting the Country & had it was said, protested ag^t our taking possession & a war with her woud probably be the result—Here it was asked what was the language of gentlemen last year? What had made Spain so much more formidable? What had made the right of deposit so much more valuable, then than it is now? What had lessend the value of our (4) Western Country so much since last Session? that we should now let go the security we had procured for this right which then to them was “too valuable to be held by a tenure so slender”—Was it of no importance that if we must fight for it that we should at least have by the treaty & our money, removed France from the list of our enemies—Last session Spain was represented as a weak & dastardly nation, & France as one of the most formidable & ambitious upon earth, & therefore we ought by all means to prevent the latter from getting foot hold & becoming our neighbor—It was then a degradation of national character to submit to insults from a power so contemptable as the Spanish—Now we ought not to inforce our rights for fear of affronting them. The Presi-

1762. Richard B. Morris (ed.), *Encyclopedia of American History* (New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, Revised Edition, 1965), 132, hereinafter cited as Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*.

¹⁰⁷ The duke of Parma was a Spanish Bourbon prince who ruled over the Duchy of Parma in northern Italy. In March, 1801, Napoleon Bonaparte awarded the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, also in northern Italy, to the duke of Parma's son. Tuscany was henceforth to be called the kingdom of Etruria and the duke of Parma's son was to be its king. Thus Tuscany was to serve as compensation to Spain for the retrocession of the Louisiana Territory that Spain had agreed to the year before. In the bargain of 1801 France was also supposed to acquire Parma. The aging duke of Parma refused to accept the agreement, and Napoleon did not make an issue of it until after the old duke died. The matter was settled in 1802, but word of the settlement apparently had not reached some members of Congress at the time Jefferson purchased Louisiana, as was indicated by their contention that Louisiana was not Napoleon's to sell. Georges LeFebvre, *Napoleon from 18 Brumaire to Tilsit, 1799-1807* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1969), 104, 172; Julius W. Pratt, *A History of United States Foreign Policy* (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Second Edition, 1965), 49.

dent I understand has sent an express to Gov^r Claybourn¹⁰⁸ of the Mississippi Territory to receive possession, & authorised him to call Gen Wilkerson¹⁰⁹ to his aid should the Spaniards refuse (as it is rumored they will) to give possession—By a dispatch from Captⁿ Bainbridge¹¹⁰ to the Secretary of State we learn that about the 29th Aug^t he captured a 22 gun ship belonging to the Emperor of Morocco, which had a few days before taken a ship from Boston he also retook the prize & was carrying them into Jabrator [Gibraltar?][—]times look a little Squaly, but I hope when the Spaniards find we are not to be Scared they will not reduce us to the necessity of using force My respects to M^{rs} Blount & family & connections—& accept the best wishes of your trouble some correspondent

W^m Blackledge

I dont think that this place will afford you a good market for lumber, as it improves but slowly, I will let you know in my next the best which can be done

WB

[No address]

John Roulhac to John Gray Blount

November 12th 1803

D^r Sir—

I take the liberty to adress you this to inform you that a number of us here, have undertaken to get the former law passed in 1796 for cutting a

¹⁰⁸William C. Claiborne was the first governor of the Louisiana Territory, being formally installed on October 1, 1804. He and James Wilkinson were the two American commissioners who had taken formal possession of the territory on December 20, 1803. Ray Allen Billington, *Westward Expansion* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., Fourth Edition, 1974), 238, hereinafter cited as Billington, *Westward Expansion*; Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 133.

¹⁰⁹General James Wilkinson of Kentucky was a "colorful scoundrel" who, both before and after he entered the United States Army, conspired with Spanish officials in Louisiana to start a revolution in American territory between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River and ostensibly to establish an independent western republic. Despite his involvement in intrigue with foreign powers Wilkinson managed to hold on to his position in the army. Billington, *Westward Expansion*, 226-227, 229, 232-233, 238, 271.

¹¹⁰Captain William Bainbridge was a naval officer who distinguished himself in the War of 1812. During the early years of the nineteenth century the United States was engaged in the Tripolitan War against North African pirates who raided American shipping. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 131, 142.

Canal from Plymouth to the head of Pungo river,¹¹¹ revived & amended this Session. I wish'd to have had Some conversation with you on the Subject last Court, but my Short Stay there, & your being detained very late in the Court-house the last evening I was there deprived me of that pleasure. the Bill is now going up, with all the other necessary papers by Col^l Ed^d Blount¹¹² one of the members from Washington County. he has got also a map of the Country, drawn by M^r Trotter from Prices plate, & actual Surveyes furnished by the Company. the Bill is drawn for a fee Simple, which all the friends of the measure, are anxious to See granted, if possible, by the Assembly, as on those terms there is no doubt but it will be undertaken & carried into effect. Some observations on that head to obviate the objections to Such grant, have been drawn, at the request of Several friends of the Bill, & will be communicated by Col^l Blount, to any of the members disposed to favour the measure in either house, laying aside the great public benefit which must be derived from carrying this canal into effect. I have Supposed that all the holders of lands intersected by the Same, or contiguous to it, would be ready & willing to give the Bill thro' their friends in either house, all the Support in their power; I know that String Should not be touched to the members for your County, as the measure, has been Supposed to be prejudicial to your town, but with others, the Same reasons do not exist. I Should wish you, [manuscript torn] contrary to your inclination, (2) to Secure to the Bill in its present form, the Support of your friends there, but above all to engage M^r Edward Harriss not to oppose the fee Simple; as very likely we will not be able to fill up our Subscription without that requisite. I Should have applyed to him myself, & craved his Support for the Bill, had I not been assured that it Should not pass in that Shape if introduced by any gentleman of the profession. we expect from the Situation of your lands up the river that you will be one of the greatest holders in the Company; I was up to your place over the Bridge last week, I went by water, as far as the widow Davis, & then went up by land, to ascertain the quantity & depth of the water, & the practicability of the Business, & collect other information; I have no doubt that it can be done, &

¹¹¹The Pungo River begins in Washington County, flows southward through part of Beaufort County, and empties into the Pamlico River. The Pamlico River eventually empties into Pamlico Sound. William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 398, hereinafter cited as Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*.

¹¹²For Edmund Blount see 1803, n. 60.

that there will be plenty of water any where between the Bridge & the fork of the river; Excuse my Hurry & believe me with Esteem

your Most Ob^t Serv^t
John Roulhac

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington N.C.

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

CITY OF WASHINGTON Dec^r 27th 1803

Dear Sir/

Inclosed I send you the answer of the Sheriff in Ohio to my letter respecting the General's land, I shall by return of the Mail inclose to him a five dollar bank bill, or send it him by Col. Worthington if he will be so obliging as to forward it to him, but he is so frequently troubled with business of this kind that I feel an un willingness to impose upon his good nature—Agreeably to the request of M^r Kratzer I shall write him on the subject he wishes to be informed of, & in my letter shall request particular inquiry as to the actual value of the lands—

We this day have rec^d letters from Natchez of the 10th Dec^r stating that at the time the Presidents dispatches reached that place Gen^l Wilkerson one of the Com^{rs} appointed to take possession was at Tombigby, and from the highth of the waters between those two places was obliged to return to Natchez by New Orleans, where he was assured by the Marquis de Casa Calva¹¹³ who had been appointed Commissioner to deliver possession to the French that possession would be del'd without any unnecessary delays & that our commissioners had left fort adams a few days before (2) in order to take possession—By another letter of the Same date from the Same place, we are told that information was rec^d the day before from L. Assatt¹¹⁴ the French Prefect stating that he was in posses-

¹¹³Sebastián Casa Calvo de la Puerta y O'Farrill was one of two Spanish commissioners appointed to transfer Louisiana to the French. A former governor of the province, the marquis de Casa Calvo resented both the French and the Americans and tried desperately to protect the integrity of Spain's Florida boundaries after the cession of Louisiana. Alexander DeConde, *This Affair of Louisiana* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976), 204, 209, 220-221, hereinafter cited as DeConde, *This Affair of Louisiana*.

¹¹⁴Pierre Clément de Laussat, a thirty-six-year-old politician, arrived in New Orleans in March, 1803, as colonial prefect for Louisiana; his job was to prepare the colony for French occupation. When rumors of the sale of Louisiana from France to the United States reached New Orleans later that spring, Laussat was stunned. He had received no official

sion & waiting the arrival of our Commissioners to deliver possession—So much for this Subject—As to Congressional business we rally have nothing of importance before us, in the course of this week we expect a bill reported for establishing a government for the Ceded territory—We have already passed a bill through our house for applying the revenue laws to the Country, and it is now before the Senate—There is but one port of entry established & that at New Orleans, the president is however authorised if it should be found necessary to establish one on the Mobiel—It is much desired by the merchants at Natchez to have that a port of entry, but as it usually takes a month & often two to go in Sea Vessels from N. Orleans to Natchez, it is feared that it will give too great facility to smuggling & therefore it is not likely it will be established, it is however made a port of delivery—An attempt has been made by the Repubs to abolish the offices of the commissioners of loans, & transfer the duties of these offices to the depart(3)ment of State—In this neither myself, Doctor Alexander nor your representative could join them—The opinion of the house on the measure was tried on a resolution stating that it would be expedient to do it, & was carried by a majority of two votes only—from whence we may conclude it will not be carried this Session—My own reason for opposing it was first that it would be attended with the effect of depreciating the value of the Stock in all the States North of Pennsylvania & South of Virginia, as no trasfer [*sic*] could afterwards be made without sending on to the City of Washington by mail or private conveyance the old certificate with a power of Attorney to some person to transact the business for the holder of the stock—who would thus be subjected to considerable delay, some expence, as well as risque of loss of his certificates in the mail. These reasons satisfied my mind that a depression in the value of the stock would be a consequence of the measure, but it does not seem to have satisfied most of the republicans, for they all agreed that if they thought it would have this effect they would not support the measure. The object of the measure was to save about 18 or 20,000\$ a year, a thing I should be very proud to see effected, if it could be without being attended by Consequences likely to do much more harm both to the Administration and the government in general, than this saving would do good—The administration you know have been accused of possessing principles unfavorable to the Credit of the United (4) States, heretofore their measures and the price of stock under them have given the lye to the accusation—Government may again be

word from Paris and did not until August when Napoleon ordered him to deliver Louisiana to the United States after accepting the colony from Spain. The transfer of Louisiana to the Americans took place on December 20, 1803. During the ceremony Laussat broke down and cried. Lamented he: "What a magnificent New France we lost!" DeConde, *This Affair of Louisiana*, 103, 150-152, 196-197, 204-206.

compelled to borrow money & to open offices in all the states of the Union in order to raise the Sum wanted, & then in order to get the money upon as low terms as possible they will have to offer all the conveniences of transferring the stock & paying the Interest at the offices where they subscribe the loans, which were offered to the Subscribers of the present debt—But will the people believe that the government intends to perform its engagements when they see how they have treated those who have formerly loaned them money? In addition to these circumstances, as a representative of N.C. I was convinced that after the whole of the direct tax was collected—our state would be put to considerable trouble, risque & expence in sending to some one of the Collectors three or four times a year for the interest & reimbursment of that part of the Stock which they hold, as after that the US. will not have money at any other place in the state to pay it—Please to present my most friendly respects to M^{rs} Blount & the whole of your family in & about Washington, & accept the best wishes of your Obed^t Serv^t

W^m Blackledge

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^{re}
Washington
Beaufort County
N Carolina

1804

John G. L. Schenck to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 3^d January 1804

Dear Sir

I received your favor by M^r Stuart¹ & am much obliged by your attention in the inquiries you made respecting M^r Hyslop, I begin to fear that my money in his hands is in Jeopardy, inclosed is a letter for him in which I have requested if he has not sent the money by Captain M^cKeel to send it on by Captain Lingo, I will thank Captⁿ L. if he goes to Kingston to deliver the letter to him in person & know of him if the remittance has been made & should he goe to the North side he will oblige me in forwarding it—

I could not get the Pork for the Navy ready to goe this time, but have sent down 50 barrels of Cargoe Pork in good order & ready pickled and 50 bags each bag containing 3 bushels white peas, I am perfectly willing to risque these articles to any market that you think proper to send Captain Lingo too, and will thank you to instruct Captⁿ Lingo to act with the proceeds in the like manner that he is directed to do with yours If he makes remittances to the Northward I will thank him (2) to place my part in the hands of Mess^{rs} Benjamin & John Cemegys of Baltimore or M^r Grove Wright of New York as the opportunity may offer & in case of his arrival at Norfolk I will thank him whatever he may have for me to place it in M^r John Granbery's hands I shall be most obliged by your attention and remain with much esteem and Respect

Your Obt Servant
Jn^o G. L. Schenck

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
pm Dupree

¹John Stuart was a businessman whose dealings with the Blounts went back at least as far as 1790. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 637.

*Ann Harvey² to John Gray Blount*KNOXVILLE August 3th 1804

Dear Brother,

since I wrote you last post, thare came a man from Comberlin, who says he saw Mr Strawther [Strother],³ & John,⁴ both well, & that Mr Strawther told him, that John would return to NC in September, I have not had a Letter from John since he left this, I suppost both him & Strawther has written you often since being thare I told them both at parting thay ought to do so as it mite of much Consiquence to you to know what thay were at bout to do—I have heard nothing from Willie since I wrote you I expect him here this mounth—its said the Assembly will rise tomorrow thay have appointed John Overton⁵ Judge in the room of Andrew Jackson,⁶ who sent on his Resignation, with the Members from that place, Judge White⁷ also ressign'd the first day the Assembly meet, its thought he will accept again, if thay raise the salary of the Judges which its said thay are about to do before it was only six hundred Dollars White said, as he was poor he could not do his family justuice to continue office any longer—I feel myself in better Health this last week than I have since being here I am now well as are all the family here—Barbaraly⁸ has this week began her English Grammer with Parsson Cor-

²For Ann Blount Harvey see 1803, n. 37.

³John Strother of Orange County was a mapmaker and surveyor who worked as a Blount land agent for many years. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 10n.

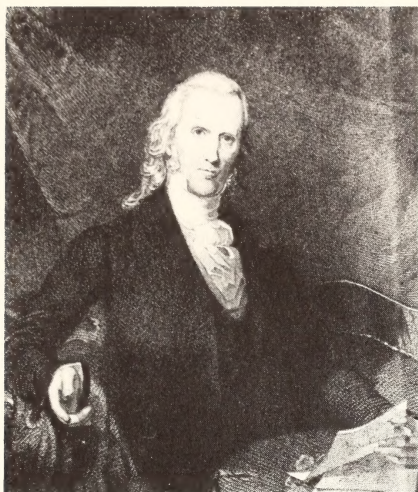
⁴John Gray Blount, Jr., occasionally helped his father in managing the Blounts' extensive Tennessee landholdings.

⁵John Overton was a lawyer, bank president, planter, and land speculator. Perhaps the wealthiest man in Tennessee, he was deeply involved in politics. His friendship with Andrew Jackson began in 1789, and he was long identified with the Blount faction, which was later led by Jackson. Overton and Pleasant Miller were among those who promoted Jackson for president of the United States and planned the strategy of his campaign. Folmsbee and others, *Tennessee*, I, 293.

⁶Andrew Jackson, who would be elected president of the United States in 1828, was already a prominent military and political figure in Tennessee by 1804. By the time he was elected a major general of the Tennessee militia in 1802, he had already served one term in the United States House of Representatives and part of a term in the United States Senate, and at the time he was elected to his military post he was a judge of the supreme court of Tennessee. In July, 1804, Jackson left the bench and went to the "Hermitage," near Nashville, to engage in planting and mercantile pursuits. A year later he fell victim to the charms of Aaron Burr and almost became directly, if inadvertently, involved in the Burr conspiracy. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1176; Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 119, 144-164.

⁷Hugh Lawson White, son of a prominent early Tennessee pioneer, was elected in 1801, at the age of twenty-eight, as a judge of the superior court of Tennessee. He held a number of other political posts and was a candidate for president of the United States in 1836. Folmsbee and others, *Tennessee*, I, 293-294, 322-325; Nancy N. Scott (ed.), *A Memoir of Hugh Lawson White* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Co., 1856), 1-18.

⁸This was Barbara Blount, a daughter of William and Mary Grainger Blount. She later married General Edmund P. Gaines. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xixn.



Hugh Lawson White (1773-1840) was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, but moved to what later became Knox County, Tennessee, in 1785. His long and successful political career culminated in his candidacy for president in 1836; he was defeated by Martin Van Buren. Photograph from S. G. Heiskell, *Andrew Jackson and Early Tennessee History* (Nashville: Privately printed, Second Edition, 2 volumes, 1920), I, facing p. 641.

right⁹ who is said to [be] a very good teacher, she had made as great progress as any one of his scholars has before done the first week, as the School is broke up, that they both went to, when I come here. I have undertaken to larn Eliza¹⁰ at home, as she appears to be very willing to larn, & I have a good room up stairs, she spells 4 lessons & reeds 4 every day, & writs a copy each day Mary¹¹ joins me in Love to you & family all a round, I should be very glad to hear from my Relations in NC I have had 1 Letter Nancy Toole¹² sinc which is the only one from NC thare on one last post for John¹³ which I sent on to him I supposd it to be from his brother Thomas¹⁴ I am affectinately yours

Anne Harvey

I write to Nancy this post

Addressed: John Gray Blount
Post Master
Washington NC

⁹This is probably a reference to "the Reverend Mr. Carrick," who had a school and taught the Blount children. William H. Masterson, *William Blount* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1954), 327, 343, hereinafter cited as Masterson, *William Blount*.

¹⁰Eliza Blount was a daughter of William Blount. She later became the wife of Dr. Edwin Wiatt. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xixn.

¹¹Mary Blount was another of William Blount's daughters. She married Pleasant Miller, the Knoxville political leader. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xixn.

¹²Ann ("Nancy") Blount, the oldest of William Blount's daughters, first married Henry Toole. Her second marriage was to Weeks Hadley of Edgecombe County. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 97n, 421n.

¹³For John Gray Blount, Jr., see 1803, n. 28.

¹⁴For Thomas Harvey Blount see 1803, n. 28.

1805

John Gallagher to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a Jan^y 10th 1805

Sir

With regret I have to inform you that after I had got the Vessel up to Reedy Island & had went by Land to Philad^a leaving Orders with the Pilot to proceed up if possible I settled the Pilotage with M^r Shannon¹ and contrary to what I wrote you last had determined to proceed to New York as soon as I went down but the Pilot had her under way five Hours before I got there and arrived in Philad^a shortly after I left it indeed the People were not in a proper State to proceed to Sea and the Strong North and N E gales we had directly after made me not to lament getting up James was frosted that he could scarcely walk Tom had his feet likewise frosted the Boy not being used to the Sea and the severe cold would have been of little use and I Really think I should have been obliged to have put in to the Capes again indeed it was as much as the Pilot could do to get her up with them M^r Wallace² has been in the same condition as in the former Voyage Sick as soon as at Sea and so remaining till into Port I hope [he] will amend coming home no Vessel has got out since I come up Day before Yesterday they were Skeating on the River since that we have had a Steady rain and East Wind if this Weather hold a few Days longer we shall again have the Navigation open if I was in any Port but Philad^a my mind would be more at ease but I know that you will do me the Justice to think that no Motives of Kindred would make me detain my Vessel one Moment (2) Freight is scarce I have on Board One Box of Merchandise three of Sadlery three thousand Bricks twenty thousand Lathes and ten Bbls Bread I shall tomorrow advertise for freight to New Bern or Washington I shall do all in my power to get a full Vessel and shall think myself satisfied as long as I can preserve a place in your good opinion which I am confident I could have done if this cursed River had kept open a short time longer—there is not remembered a Winter those many Years that set in so sudden and severe nor of so many Vessels lost on the Coast as this

¹For William Shannon see 1803, n. 19.

²There were a number of Wallaces connected with Shell Castle and the Blounts. The most prominent of the Wallaces was John, a business partner of John Gray Blount, who usually was referred to as "the governor." The reference here is certainly not to John, but might be to David Wallace, John's brother, or to Reuben Wallace. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 288, 310. See also 1803, n. 12.

I shall conclude with my best wishes for the Health of You and Yours
that I Remain Sir

Your Most Obedient
Humble Servant
John Gallagher

John G Blount Esq^e

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^e
Washington
N C

David Pidge³ to John Gray Blount

SHELLCASTLE 19th Jan^y 1805

D^r Sir,

This is to inform you of the unhappy affair that took place at this Office on Sunday—night last. there was a Sloop belonging to New York by the name of the Jackall Joseph Hulett master Stranded on the Swash on the 21st of Decer last and her sales was conducted by M^r Mayo⁴ which after collectin nearly all the money to the amount of Sales it was deposited in the office here, M^r Mayo had occation to go to his Trunk Soon after candle light on the night before mentioned and upon opening his trunk he discovered the money was gone, upon which there was an immediate search made and a great number of Strangers on the Castle at the time. the amount of the money taken was 259 Dollars consisting of 16 American Eagles⁵ a number of Bank Bills & forty Eight Dollars in Silver. the people were all called in to M^r Pinkhams⁶ Tavern and a number of them were Stripped & Searched but no discovery made, In this state of

³It is obvious from the letters that David Pidge wrote to John Gray Blount that he was an employee who worked at Shell Castle. Other than this, no information on Pidge has been located.

⁴John Mayo was an associate of John Wallace and of the Blounts at Shell Castle. He served as the administrator of Wallace's estate in 1810, selling all of the deceased's perishable property and hiring out several of his slaves. Stick, *The Outer Banks*, 83.

⁵American Eagles were \$10 gold coins. The Liberty Cap Eagle was minted between 1795 and 1797; the Heraldic Eagle from 1797 to 1804. No eagles were minted from 1805 through 1837. Chester L. Krause and Clifford Mishler (comps.), *Standard Catalog of World Coins* (Iola, Wis.: Krause Publications, 1972), 730-731.

⁶This was probably Nathaniel Pinkham, who had earlier sailed for the Blounts as a crew member of the sloop *Beaver*. By 1805 he was apparently running a tavern at Shell Castle. He represented Carteret County in the General Assembly at various times between 1798 and 1819. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 238, 239, 249, 251, 252, 258, 262, 264, 271, 273, 275; Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 296, 310.

confusion they Generaly began to censure me as being accessary to the affair and [I] became the only object of suspition. I therefore was keep in custody the best part of the night and notwithstanding I made every declaration of my innocence in the matter I was Still held as the criminal, this Originated as I afterwards found by my Good friend M^r Pinkham in a great measure, who was in all company that was collected for the most part of the time using every method & scheme to Distroy my character & reputation, declaring that I was the person that robbed the office and that he thought it the most propper (2) to put me into Jail and make up the money to M^r Mayo, but M^r Mayo and Others would not hear to the proposal, and by their Unity I was keep out of Jail The day after the money was taken there was a search warrant Issued every chest & trunk to a very few was opened but no discovery made, at this time M^r Mayo had nearly dispared of finding any part ever again he thin Sat up an Advertisement which was wrote in a very moveing manner requesting the persons who had taken the money to replace it again [and they] might keep all the Silver money and no questions would be asked, the money was brought in the course of the night and laid on one of the seats in the piazza of the office and found the next morning by M^r Pinkham—the night that it was brought I have proved by Cap^t Voorhees that I went to bed with him about Eight-OClock in the Evening and continued in bed with him till the morning following and likewise by another person—A number of things about the same time occurred that gave the people to think more favorable of me and the censure shifted another way—The Governor⁷ & M^r Mayo I can say thinks favorable of me and I hope that I shall soon convince the world that I am innocent of the affair—I shall request M^r Mayo to write you upon the Subject and let you know what his Opinion is—And what I have to request of you after being abused beyond measure is to inform me how I shall seek redress for the injury I have sustained by M^r Pinkham who did assert upon all Occations that I was the person that robbed the office when at the same time he could not (3) bring forward the least circumstance that could prove me a person of that character. I shall refer you for further particulars concerning the proceedings with respect to M^r Pinkham and the Tavern of to those who have been here which I presume you are no Stranger too—

Sir please to send me a line On the subject by the first conveyance—I remain dear Sir with profound respect your Obde^t Serv^t

David Pidge

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

⁷This reference is to John Wallace. See 1803, n. 12; 1805, n. 2.

*John Gaylard⁸ to John Gray Blount*BROAD CREEK, Satterday 2th Fe^{ry} 1805M^r Blount

Sir, Last Night I Re^d your Letter, and Strickly Observed its contents, I with Reluitions answer it, as I fear it will not be Sattisfactory to you, tho I ought not to be blam^d, I not as yet got to work on the vessels, thoe it has been my wish to have don it Long ago, but M^r Lacey has never as yet com over, God only knows what detains him, for I dont, I have wrote him twice requesting him to ralley up his hands & Com on as soon as possable as I wanted the vessels don & off a hand, I fear he is sick, and the Other hands dont Like to go to work without him as foreman, I this day Starts two hands over in a Canoe after him & others—& shud it so happen that he cant Com, I shall ameadently proceade to som Other Sutiabie person to carrey her on, no time Shall be Lost in making Every dispatch in my power—In respect to the things Sent by M^r Wilkinson he left them at the Loghouse Landing, & I thursday Last sent my Oxen & Cart after them, & Last night they fetch^d up, but as they said cudnot fetch the hole therefore left the varnish, but M^r H. Selby⁹ who attended to it wrote me that he wood Send it to me in a few days—But as soon as conveant after we git to worke, which I hope will be next week, Ile write you, and shud it be conveant Ile thank you to Let me have the Cotten wrote for, and also Eight or ten Barrels of Corn, as I cant git what I want here, I am your

Obd^t & MH Servant &c
John Gaylard

(2) my hands couldnot git over the river after the Carpenters when Send on Satterday 2th Fe^{ry} 1805—But the Letter is sent on to them as before—Ile thank you to Send me the first oppurtunity 50 blls Nales, a proposhon of tens & twenty peneys & Charge them to the a/c of your Obe^t & MH Serv^t

John Gaylard

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

⁸John Gaylard, an overseer, lived for a time in Hyde County. Later he moved to Broad Creek in Beaufort County and became a shipbuilder. Broad Creek was also known as Lower Creek. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 504n; Reed, *Beaufort County*, 165.

⁹This was probably Henry Selby. See 1803, n. 100.

*William Sheppard¹⁰ to John Gray Blount*NEW BERN 7th February 1805

Dear Sir/

I beg you to accept my thanks for your kindness in communicating to me the information brought by M^r Keias¹¹—the Widows son is a very unfortunate Vessel She sailed from Newbern for Jamaica on the 18th June where she arrived safe, on her homeward bound passage she was captured by a French privateer, then recaptured by a British Cruizer and carried back to Jamaica where the Salvage and other expences amounted to 1400 Dollars which I have paid here to Bills drawn on me, she is now captured again by the same Devils which will probably close the Account, as it is not very likely that any satisfaction will be ever obtained from the prosecution at Orleans (2) Since it appears Bell has left that place—

I have heard from Charleston that the same Schooner was loading at Havanna for that or some other southern port—if she comes within my reach I shall take the liberty of enquiring by what title they hold her—

I am with great regard

Y^r Obt Servant

Wm. Shepard

John G. Blount esq're

[No address]

*Samuel Gerock¹² to John Gray Blount*NEWBERN Feby 19th 1805

Sir

Your Brother M^r Sharpe Blount, who has been very Sick here, for this fortnight past, with a violent and most painful attack of the Gravel, set

¹⁰William Sheppard was the man who would later erect the first "steam Mill" in New Bern on the Trent River. He financed the building of the mill with money he made through privateering in the War of 1812. He operated the mill profitably until a competitor built a larger mill where the Trent and Neuse rivers flow together. Stephen F. Miller, *Recollections of New Bern Fifty Years Ago* (Columbus, Ga.: n.p., 1873), 47, hereinafter cited as Miller, *Recollections*.

¹¹William Keias was at one time a customs officer in Washington, North Carolina. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 112n.

¹²Samuel Gerock was a bookkeeper in the Bank of New Bern. He was known as "a gentleman of the olden school, who wore breeches and cocked hat." Miller, *Recollections*, 35.

off for home in a Stage waggon along with M^{rs} Blount, on Sunday last 7th Ins^t in a very infirm State indeed. hoping by a slow journey to reach his home. by their mutual request send you this information. your very worthy Brother may be pronounced a much enfeebled, & Sick Man, his disorder being Complicated. M^r Potter¹³ had it in charge to inform you. Your [Br]other apprehends, he may have forgot so to do—

very respectfully
your M^o hble Serv^t
Sam^l Gerock

John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r P. M
Washington

Taylor & Justice¹⁴ to John Gray Blount

NEWBERN 26 February 1805

John Gray Blount Esq^r

It is rather a disagreeable task which the nature of the business imposes on us, that causes this appeal to your Judgment—But as it is a duty, we have no doubt of your adopting such measures, as will leave us no room to complain

We shall therefore briefly recite the Circumstances and leave them to your decision—About the 20th of December last a Spanish Brig called the Carmine was cast away on one of the Shoals of Wallaces Channel, her Cargo consisting principally of Raw Hides, and Twenty four Casks of molasses, together with such of her Sails & rigging as were saved, was deposited at Shell Castle, the Captain Shortly after applied to us to secure the duties, And to Act as Agents, for the Owners, Underwriters and all Concerned which we accepted—In pursuance therof, our Isaac Taylor¹⁵ went to Shell Castle, and on the 18th In^t exposed the Cargo for Sale,

¹³This might possibly have been Judge Henry Potter of New Bern, who would later preside over the district court for North Carolina's eastern district. Miller, *Recollections*, 55.

¹⁴John Justice had "a large country trade" in New Bern during the 1820s and the 1830s. Perhaps his establishment had previously been known as Taylor and Justice. Isaac Taylor probably was his partner. Miller, *Recollections*, 58.

¹⁵For Isaac Taylor see 1805, n. 14.

which was accomplished on that and the two succeeding days—previously, however, to the Sale, he frequently applied to John Wallace esq^r for the amount of the wharfage, and Storage; but without effect, untill the evening, previous to his departure which was on the 23^d—But Governor Wallace had previously agreed that should there be any disagreement as to the charge, that the matter should be left to reference—When the charge was at length exhibited, which was 25 Cents p^r hide amounting to \$857 50/100—(2) exclusively of charges for other things: it appeared so excessively high that our Isaac Taylor then applied for the naming of the referees—a M^r Pinkham, M^r Mayou and M^r Pedge—were successively named by the Governor, but it is Confidently submitted to you, with what propriety they were objected to, at length the Governor agreed that John Devereux¹⁶ esq^r of this Town, should solely determine the business, and that a full statement of the transaction should be made out, and submitted to him, for this purpose he applied to Captain James Taylor,¹⁷ and as he was pursuing the Instructions of John Wallace Esq^r, M^r Pinkham interferred, and had influence sufficient with him to prevent that measure being resorted to

Seeing every mode of equitable adjustment fail, our Isaac Taylor left the Governor without any arrangement taking place, and we see no probability of bringing the business to any close but through you, permit us then to make some remarks relative to the trouble and care exercised, towards the cargos—there were nearly Two thousand of the hides landed dry, the rest had to be frequently handled to preserve and dry them, The loft in his warehouse held between twenty seven, and twenty eight hundred, three hundred were still hanging in his new house, at the day of the sale exposed to the weather &^c the molasses was not in any house, added to which no receipts for the Cargo or Material were given, as the Governor refused to become responsible, indeed the reason he assigned for not producing the account at an earlier period than he did, (3) was that He should only charge for what he actually delivered

He made purchases and assured for others to the amount of 620 dollars or thereabouts, We are ready to admit, that taking all circumstances into consideration as much care was taken of the Hydes as could be expected, and the loss in numbers being so small, that it is not worth notice, the molasses it is true was not Stored, but these circumstances we are ready to admit may be overlooked, the principal objection we offer is

¹⁶ John Devereux was a wealthy and highly respected merchant of New Bern who originally came from Ireland. Miller, *Recollections*, 58; Beth G. Crabtree and James W. Patton (eds.), “*Journal of a Secesh Lady*”: *The Diary of Catherine Ann Devereux Edmondston, 1860-1866* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1979), xix-xxi, hereinafter cited as Crabtree and Patton, “*Journal of a Secesh Lady*.”

¹⁷ Captain James Taylor was inspector of the revenue and surveyor of customs for Beacon Island at Ocracoke Inlet. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 440n.

to the charge on the Hydes, which for Storage alone, amounts to nearly one third of the neet proceeds of the sales—

To your decision then Sir we with confidence appeal, as in your rectitude of Judgment we have the most perfect relyance—requesting your early answer we are with greatest respect—your Obd^t Servt^s

Taylor & Justice

M^r Bernadou one of the owners has just arrived from Philade^a he writes you by this conveyance—

[No address]

John Gaylard to John Gray Blount

BROAD CREEK Sunday 14th April 1805

Friend Blount,

my Dear Sir, we are at Last going on very well with the vessel, we want a Calker as soon as you can send him, and all Other things that you are to Send for the benefit of the vessel—I have no Smiths Shop of my own, & Cant git your rod reduc^d for Less than 6^d [illegible] in any Shop that I know of, and I Send & fetch it back, for they say that they had reather make [illegible] rod out of squire Bars, then reduce yours—But if you say drive them as they are we will, if possable, and do good work— I hope we shall drive on now with the vessel & make a finish before we brake off again, they have worred my pations all most thread bare, but they now have got their fanny underway, & I hope will Stay with me untill I finish & Lanch—I know that I am not intitled to Call on you for any thing on my Own a/c, But as I am Short of Cash, & such articles as I want very Scarse to be got here—shud it be Conveant with you to Send me Six or Eight Barrels of Corn, and Som Baken, & a few pounds of Nails, for my own use, as I am out, and often wanting som, Sixes Eights & tens, Provided you can with Conveantcy & weight with me, untill I can Conveantly pay you; I am your Ob^t & H Servant &^c

John Gaylard

NB M^r Lacey Says he can drive the [illegible] rod as they are, but that he wants an other augor, Say Longr Inch, or reather one inch & half Eighth, which youel please to Send me—and also two Bushels of Irish potators to plant—and the residue of the Cotten, whrote for hereto-

fore—Give my Compliments to Capⁿ Jn^o Alderson,¹⁸ and tell him, that if
 heal Send me one or two good [manuscript torn] Ile give the highest
 wages and pay for the time coming & going [manuscript torn] and also
 that I have no water as yet to Saw, the residue of his [manuscript torn]

your Ob^t JG

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
 Washington

*John Gray Blount to John Haywood*¹⁹

WASHINGTON April 15th 1805

John Haywood Esquire
 D^r Sir

Yours of the fifth march I rec^d & was glad to find that my indent
 toward your man Luke met your approbation; I think he will be more
 fond of home & the treatment there in future.

The Friends & Heirs of Reading Blount have abundant cause to thank
 you, for the lenity shuon them on account the public debt I suppose
 them in about enough of his Estate to pay the debt without injuring the
 securities if well managed but that consists in piney Lands except two
 Negros and heretofore I have had hopes that them two Negros & two
 small Plantations some improved might [illegible] for the Son &
 Daughter my only two [illegible] but my situation has been such that I
 have not been or am I yet able to run the Lands to their [illegible] am
 but five People want them & they want them for nothing If good piney
 Lands within two to four miles of [illegible] would command one Dollar
 per Acre the money (2) might be raised out of the Lands as well as about
 600\$ he owed me & for which the Lands in part were mortgaged to me
 and as the People of that neighbourhood have now began & but now be-
 gan to make Turpentine I have no doubt the Lands will soon sell for a

¹⁸Captain John Alderson of Hyde County was a prominent planter and shipper. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 62n.

¹⁹John Haywood was treasurer of North Carolina from 1787 to 1827 and a close friend of the Blounts. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 16n. This letter is located in the Ernest Haywood Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library at Chapel Hill and is published with the kind permission of Dr. Carolyn Wallace, the director of the collection.

much higher price such lands as them in Bertie County would now sell for 2 to 4 \$ pr Acre If you will have the Execution sent down I will sell either by [illegible] sale [illegible] the two Negros & the Nett proceeds of them shall be sent at or before the next Assembly which will I hope present [illegible]. I am geting through my difficulties as well as I can but now & then Missfortune runs in my way so that I have been obliged to sacrifice some Lands here and have given orders for as much to be sold in Tennessee as will pay all I owe and that will be done as soon as money can be had for Land at any price. and I hope I may be a gainer by it, as such Sums as I can then raise may be appropriated to the improvement of my Lands here & make them not only valuable but productive in my day and that I may live to see the day when I am clear of debt is the sincere prayer of

Your Friend & obliged
Humble Servant
J. G. Blount

Addressed: Free
J. G. Blount PM
Washington N. C.

John Haywood Esquire
Raleigh

Richard Tuck²⁰ to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE April 20th 1805

Dear Sir

On the 17th inst there was an arrival here from Kingston (Jamaica) in 31 Days. Every enquiry relative to Capt Lingo²¹ proved fruitless, as no information could be had—Nor has the Gov heard of him since he left this—

As it is absolutely necessary that the Bar & Store Rooms for the Tavern, should be places of safe deposit. I therefore annex a memorandum of articles essential to that end and which escaped my notice when at Washington. viz—

²⁰As revealed in his correspondence with John Gray Blount, Richard Tuck was an employee at Shell Castle. No other information has been uncovered.

²¹For Captain Cornelius Lingo see 1803, n. 15.

3 Iron Bars for the windows of those Rooms, of the following dimention
 3 ft. 1 1/2 in length.
 6 Bolts for D^o 8 1/4 inch in length. Keys for Do.
 6 Hasps 1 [illegible] Hinges
 1 Iron Latch for Kitchen similar to those already had.
 2 Sliding Bolts for Doors—
 3 ft 1 1/2 in is the breadth of the windows including the frames—
 8 1/4 Inches. the thickness of the frame & Casing therefore the length of
 the Bolts must exceed that of 8 1/4 inches so much as is necessary to re-
 ceive the Bars & Keys—

The Gov^r family is well as usual.
 with due respect
 Your Obd^t Sev^t
 Rich^d Tuck

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
 Merch^t
 Washington

William Polk²² to John Gray Blount

Ap^l 26 1805
 RALEIGH

Dear Sir:

I have this day received your letter of the 16^h current & hasten to give you the information requested.

The Sale of the Lands took place in the County of Buncombe in the Month of March 1804; yours was sold on the 24^h of that Month from which, an equity of redemption runs for two years—the payment is to be made to the Sup^r or person acting as such in case of his removal, with 25 Per Cent Interest p^r Annum on the purchase money—The Collectors Return on the sale runs thus—viz—(2) “746880 Acres of Land, situated generally in the mountains throughout the County, and claims an ex-

²²William Polk (1758-1834) was an officer in the Revolutionary War and a Federalist who held a governmental post during the administration of John Adams. Prior to his appointment by Adams, Polk had served two terms in the North Carolina House of Commons as a Davidson County representative (1785 and 1786) and two terms as a Mecklenburg County representative (1787 and 1790). He was also an active land speculator. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 216, 218, 219, 225; Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 225n.

William Polk (1758-1834), a Revolutionary War officer, moved to Raleigh about 1800 and served as president of the State Bank from 1811 to 1819. Although originally a Federalist, he was a longtime friend of Andrew Jackson and organized the military hero's presidential campaign in North Carolina in 1824. Engraving courtesy of the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



emption for 98798 Acres; sold to sundry persons 3198, & 85360 as lying within the Indian boundery exempt by the State, and 10240 reverted to the State by a former Law. 648082 Subject to Tax as per Assessment List" "Sold for \$167.24 Purchaser, Richard Thomas."

There appears to be an error in the quantity sold as mentioned, for deducting from 746880 Acres, the quantity on which an exemption is claimed viz 98798 there would remain 549,284 Acres—however I do apprehend that the amount of Tax is correct & that if instead of the erroneous am^t being offered for Sale, the actual one had been, the purchase money would have been as stated.

There has been also sold in the County ⟨3⟩ of Cumberland for non payment of Direct Tax 87870 Ar. lying on both sides of C[ape] F[ear] & Little River &c am^t of Tax \$35.42 bought by Thomas Mathews. these Lands were sold on the 14 of Feb^r 1804.

I am very respectfully
Dear Sir
Your ob^t Serv^t
Will: Polk

John G Blount Esq.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq
Washington
N Carolina

Thomas Richards to John Gray Blount

LAKE MILLS May 4 1805

Sir there being no conveyance to Washington i concluded this morning to send one of the Carpenters with this few Lines to inform You that by the 11^d Int We shall have the gates framd and the piling Plank will be ours next work to go Upon. as to found the gates is a matter of Much Consideration as M^r Hawaloy is 15 days Now from reaching the Mills and as the foundation will be Under Water Mr Hawoley Caries the Canall onley 4 feet Lower as when you Where Last if we found the gates we shall have to pump Nearly 4 feet of Water Every Morning before beginning to put the hands to do any Work to Advantage as i am willing to Compleat them on any terms the ground is very dry and to Carry on the Canall to render a pasage sufficent for the Mills will not be Completed by the time the Mills is going to Work without 5 or 6 Other being imployd with the Other Negros We have two of Mr Swindle²³ young men imployd I think it will be as Cheap to spike the whole of the Sheeting as to trunall all the Differen will be in the Expence (2) the Mens Labour in boring and Making Trunalls you are Sir to Consider wich will be the best mode of Compleated the gates Whether to finish the gates or to remain here and found the gates in a body of Water wich to opinions here they will not be Safe

Sirs I Rem Yours R
 Tho Richards
 Millwright

To J G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: J G Blount Esq^r
 Washington
 by Negro
 Sam

²³ This is probably a reference to Jacob Swindell, who worked for the Blounts as an agent and supervisor. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 495n.

A Contract between Mildred Neale²⁴ and John Gray Blount

[June 12, 1805]

State of North Carolina
Halifax County—

Know all men by these presents that I Isaac Hilliard²⁵ for and in consideration of the sum of eight hundred and eight Dollars & 12 Cents to me in hand paid by Mildred Neale the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge hath bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain sell and convey unto John Gray Blount his Heirs, Exor^s and Admr^s to the only proper use benefit and behoof of the said Mildred Neale her Heirs, Exor^s Admr^s & assigns the following negroes, to wit, Nelley, Milley, Betty, Moses—Charles, Eady, & David—To Have and to hold unto the said John Gray Blount his Heirs, Exor^s & Admr^s in trust and for the sole benefit and advantage of the said Mildred Neale her Heirs, Exor^s Admr^s and Assigns—

And the said Isaac Hilliard the same will warrant and forever defend against the claim of all others claiming from through by or under him—
In Witness Whereof he hath hereunto set his hand and Seal this Twelfth day of June 1805—

Signed sealed &
del^d in presence of &
MW Truan

Isaac Hilliard (Seal)

Rec^d of Mildred Neale the sum of Eight hundred & eight Dollars 12 Cents being in full for the consideration money above expressed this Twelfth day of June 1805—

MW Truan

Isaac Hilliard

²⁴Mildred Neale was the wife of Abner Neale, a merchant, planter, and minor politician of New Bern who often sought John Gray Blount's help and advice. After Abner's death Mildred married Benjamin Coakley of Northampton County. Coakley was a business associate of the Blounts. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 12n, 24n.

²⁵Isaac Hilliard, a resident of Halifax, North Carolina, represented that town in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1801. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 244.

*James S. Ritchie to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^e 19 June 1805M^r John G. Blunt

Sir

A Brig owned by me, called the Augustus & commanded by John Gantlet on her passage from Havana to this port was cast away on the shoals of Hatteras the 1st of May last, laden'd with a cargoe of [illegible] sugars a part of which with some of the materials of the vessel was I understand by the Mate (now here) saved & sold on the Beach that the Cap^t Jn^o Gantlet applied to you to assist him in his business & did place it under your direction & management, I am therefore constrained to take this liberty and to request from you all the information in your power on the subject which I trust you will give and excuse, when I assure you to this hour the Captain has never made his appearance or accounted in any shape or fashion for the proceed sales of the property—no doubt a copy of their sales can be procured from the Marshall or sheriff and an account of the monies & how disposed of and I shall take it extremely friendly if you will make the application & forward the sales. what expence you may be at I will chearfully repay—a line from you as early as possible will much oblige

Sir Your Mos^t Ob^t Sert.
James S. Ritchie

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blunt
Washington
North Carolina

*William Richard to John Gray Blount*NASHVILLE 26th June 1805

Dear Sir

I have often written to you, Doctor Williams and M^r Ralston on the subject of my Watch which I left with M^r Speir²⁶ and I believe had my letters reach'd you, I should have received an ansswer—The old story runs thus—

²⁶This could refer to William Spier, who owned Spier's Landing on the Tar River in Pitt County. The landing, designated an inspection station by the North Carolina legislature, was a mercantile center. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 345n.

When last at M^r Speirs house, he observed I had better leave my watch with him untill my return—I well knew he had a predilection for it—I offered the watch to him as a mark of my gratitude and Esteem—he replied he intended sending for one by M^r Stewart to Philadelphia and would only keep it for me—as he conceived it was too valuable to travel in the woods with—I insisted on his receiving it—he then accompanied me to the ferry and tendered me a roll of money—I could not, as I did not accept it; he then insisted again on delivering the said watch to me should I ever return, and obliged me to receive a small gold watch as a present—(I wish it valued) (2) which I did—It was of little value as it would not keep time—it was a french trincket. the value of that watch was known to Captain William Gorham²⁷ particularly—My watch cost fifty guineas in London—I wrote to M^r Dickerson²⁸ of Greenville about her—he answered that previous to his receiving my letter, that he had sold her to Doctor Magempsy and that the Doctor asked \$105 for it—Now Sir—as M^r Speir retreated with full coffers—I ask you and the other gentlemen executors to buy up my watch, and for you to keep her in your possession untill my arrival in Washington—and in case of my death or desertion, you are requested by me to present it to John Gray Blount jun^r as a mark of my friendship for him and his fathers family—to whom you will please to tender my most Respectful regards—

Jack²⁹ is some times hear but more with his uncle Willie³⁰ at Major Bakers—he behaves well, and, I feel a degree of pleasure in telling you he is very judicious and conducts himself with great propriety—he hath sence and forbearance which is more than young lads of his age can boast of any where—I mean generally speaking—I think he will do you justice. (3) I have recovered most of Captain Thomas Armstrongs³¹ land

²⁷Captain William Gorham was a ship's captain who worked for the Blounts. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 546, 573-575, 583, 629; III, 113n.

²⁸This is probably a reference to Joel Dickinson, a merchant of Greenville, North Carolina. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 505.

²⁹Jack was a nickname for John Gray Blount, Jr.

³⁰For Willie Blount see 1803, n. 33.

³¹Captain Thomas Armstrong enlisted in the North Carolina Continental Line on April 16, 1776, as a first lieutenant. He was promoted to captain in 1777. In 1782 he received his discharge. The fact that he purchased Sergeant Patrick Ryan's land warrant indicates that he had some interest in Tennessee land. See "Copy of a Register showing the names alphabetically, rank, dates of Commissions and enlistments, periods of service and occurrences, taken from the original muster and pay rolls of the North Carolina Line of the late Army of the United States" (prepared at Philadelphia, 1791), copy in the North Carolina State Archives, hereinafter cited as Register of the North Carolina Continental Line; North Carolina Military Land Warrant number 301, Tennessee State Archives, Nashville, hereinafter cited as Land Warrant(s), Tennessee State Archives, with appropriate number(s). (These land warrants are listed alphabetically and are cross-referenced in the files of the Tennessee State Archives. They can be found under the names of the persons who received them or the names of the first persons to whom they were assigned by the original recipients. For each recipient or assignee there is a number, and each warrant is made readily available by calling for it by that number.)

but by loosing Gerrards³² list of them—I still am defficient \$800—I wish you could render information—I have his Military grant & lands thus 3840—

Also on the north side Cumberland river—1000

Also on overalls Creek W^t fork Stones' R. 640 and a *warrant* assigned by Serj^t Patrick Ryan³³ 1000 I expect the warrant from its age has been laid and removed—

I have recovered judgement against Col^l Jessee Bentons³⁴ heirs at our last sup^r court \$4000—a purchase I made of [manuscript torn] Campbell,³⁵ he of Jn^o Rice³⁶—Benton [manuscript torn] this tract or rather Bond, Gov^r Blount³⁷ tried to purchase in 1796—he recommended the thing to me—

Armstrong may have more tracts possibly known to you—if so I will thank you to render me information of them—

We have great crops of Cotton—if the rain don't repeat too often—(prices \$26 to 27 at orleans)—

I am with Friendship as usual
W^m Richard—

John G. Blount Esquire.

P. S. M^r Strother³⁸ keeps Jack close at writing—I send my Profile enclosed—put it where you think meet

NB—Jacob B—is amiable and promising—R - d——! ——!——!

The county of Rutherford settles rapidly and is the best Cotton ground in the state—

³²Major Charles Gerrard acquired land warrant number 1284 for 274 acres in Tennessee from Private James Southerland. He also received land grant number 1767 in 1807. Land Grant 1767, Tennessee State Archives, Nashville. (The Land Grants are organized exactly the same way as the Land Warrants; see 1805, n. 31); Land Warrant 1284, Tennessee State Archives.

³³Sergeant Patrick Ryan received land warrant number 301 for 1,000 acres in Tennessee on November 10, 1783. He later assigned it to Captain Thomas Armstrong. Land Warrant 301, Tennessee State Archives.

³⁴For Jesse Benton see 1803, n. 55.

³⁵This was probably George Washington Campbell (1768-1848), a prominent Tennessee political figure. He served in both houses of the United States Congress, was secretary of the treasury, and for three years was minister to Russia. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 386n.

³⁶For John Rice see 1803, n. 54.

³⁷William Blount, governor of the Southwest Territory and a United States senator from Tennessee, was the older brother of John Gray Blount. He became the most famous of the Blount brothers. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xviii-xxi.

³⁸For John Strother see 1804, n. 3.

Gen. Blounts³⁹ land is highly valuable—I often ride tho' it.

We have *plays* & *Physiognotrists*
& *Vice Presidents* [illegible]

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

Alexander Miller⁴⁰ to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 2nd July 1805

Sir,

Yours of the 25th ulto I received but not in time to get a letter in the mail & I wrote you by the ferry boys who promised to hand it to the post boy but M^r Collins⁴¹ tells me he dont think that you had rec^d it & for fear that you have not, I now again mention that Cap^t Williams informed me that he is well acquainted with Cap^t Lingo but that he has neither seen or heard any thing of him on his last Voyage—I am sorry that I could not convey to you more agreeable information, and am

Sir most respectfully
your ob^t ser^t
Alex^r Miller

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington

Mail

³⁹For Reading Blount see 1803, n. 25.

⁴⁰Alexander Miller was a citizen of Edenton, North Carolina. His will, made in Chowan County in 1807, indicates that he was a close associate of Josiah Collins, Sr., who was, in turn, a good friend of the Blounts. Will of Alexander Miller, Chowan County (Original) Wills, 1694-1904, North Carolina State Archives.

⁴¹This refers to Josiah Collins, Sr., or Josiah Collins, Jr. They were prominent merchants of Edenton and were connected with the Blounts by marriage. The younger Jacob Blount's (John Gray Blount's younger half brother) first wife, Nancy Collins, was the elder daughter of Josiah Collins, Sr. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xxvii-xxviii; III, 22n, 527-528.

*John Mayo to John Gray Blount*PORTSMOUTH July 9th 1805

Sir

At the time Lingo Went Out last he left his boy bill here to board With me & to go to Schoole when I set up for Six months. he then said if any thing should happen so that he did not return, I must call upon you for payment who he said Was due him a Considerable of money, if this is the case I will thank you to let me know, as I have been under the necessity to advance money to get the boy clothes, as he had not a second shift to his back, this Lingo requested me to do—but did not think he was so bad off for clothes—the Money I have advanced, for clothes—lent Lingo at the time he went out—board of Bill &c—up to the 20th ins^t will am^t to about forty Dollars, the boy having been with me five months up to the above day. I would also thank you to say (2) what I shall do in future with Bill whether he is to continue on the six months or not Lingo agreed to pay me five Dolollars per month for his Board, washing, & Lodging. & two Dollars & fifty Cents per quarter for Schooling.

The Sherriff left a list of Taxes for me to receive for him for year 1804 you are on the list of this district. the Taxes is 8/6 p^r poll. I am to make returns to him at Our next Election. in the mean time I am appointed to take a list of the Taxables for this District for year 1805. this I thought proper to inform you of as you can perhaps make it more convenient to pay & give in here than else where.

I am Sir Most respectfully
Your Most Obed^t
JNO. MAYO

John G Blount Esq^r

[Manuscript torn]

*John Gaylard to John Gray Blount*BROAD CREEK, 2th Aug^t 1805John Gray Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir, we yesterday made a fine Lanch, Lanch the vessel clear a float, and realy She Looks well on the water, their is yet Som work to do

to her besides the Calking—and if you had reather take her on to washington and finish her their, I am willing—But if you had much reather have her finished heir Ile git the Carpenters at it again as soon as possible and finish her, which can be don in two weeks, Except the Calking—Com down & See her and Let me know what you wish if you please,

I am your Ob^t Hb^{le}
John Gaylard

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington

p^r
M^r Smith—

John Gaylard to John Gray Blount

BROAD CREEK, 2th Sep^{tr} 1805

John Gray Blount Esquire

Dear Sir, it appears from your Letter to me, and to M^r Lacey also, that you and he hath had Som Conversation, Respecting the getting up & finishing the New vessel, But Your plans we are at a Loss to know how to carrey into Execution for M^r Lacey cannot be got by me, the cause I am at a Loss to know, I have went after him twice myself, and as soon as your hands com after the vessel, I Sent a Canoe & hands after him Tuhey & others, But M^r Lacey put the boys off as you [illegible] and the others wold not com without him as foreman—and we being not able to do any thing for want of Carpenters & Meterels, as at present I cant git Either—your hands has goan home—I was intended up to your Court myself, But from this disappointment I have declin^d—and Start over myself onece more to Currituck after hands, and I Entend not coming back myself untill I git hands and meterels also—to git her up and then to finish—and when this is don Ile Send you word—She then will be in order to be Settled for—and carried away if you Like—and cold She now have ben carred away I Should have Let her goan—notwithstanding all that I have heard—for I cant beleave it without further proof—I am told that you Exspect me to pay you for her Deten-shon &c—which I Shall never agree to do—I want nothing but what is right with you, and all the world—I think that its best for us to understand Each Other better before the property is (2) Deliverd by Either of

us—I wish the true Sprit and meaning of the Contract to be full fill—But no dispute, nor Misunderstanding—Provided that a friendly and Easey Settlement Shud take place I ask nothing for detenshon on your part—for not furnishing us better—nor I am not willing to pay any thing for the Same—realey my thoughts is that there wood be more Justice in your paying me for Detenshon—then for my paying you—But I am willing for us both to say nothing about it—as it appears to be Small and trifling—But those are the Tirms that I am willing to, not wishfull of deviating from our Bargon—If you take the vessel I am willing to allow the one foot in addition to the Contract—as you say it was an Omishon of yours But the other foot and a half I Shall Exspect to be paid for, at twelve Dollars p^r ton, or the custom that is to say in her depth of hole—and if you wish keep the Mill &c—and allow me for what I have had don to her, and for her benifit—and let me keep the vessel and pay you for your Advances &c which appears to me wood be Just—If you think that you have a hard bargain—But we will have no misunderstanding—if you want the vessel I am willing you Shud have her—But as there is a Dispute in [illegible] Hollowell mind wheare the divishon Line is—I think you had better com down yourself when she is don—and form a Settlement with me—and Establish the divishon Line between the Mill Lands, and Said Hollowells Land—and make me the Deeds &c, for Said Mill & Lands—and give up the Lease &c also—

I am your Ob^t Friend &c
John Gaylard

NB please to Send me answer by the return of M^r Smith

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington

p^r
M^r Smith

John Gaylard to John Gray Blount

[October 21, 1805]

M^r Blount

My Der Sir, I am doing nothing to the vessel at present—nor can I, without her pumps, and at Least a good takel fall and blocks, then I think with what Riggins I already have I can git up the vessel and git out the water—so that she can be finished—Either here or at Washington as

you please, if you are in a hurrey for her & we can agree on what is right for her defishonce, I shall be willing to allow it to you, and com to a close & Settlement for her, & Let you have her as she is—or if youel Send me such things as I have nam^d Ile go about to work on her & git her up and then finish her as soon as possible—I no very well that I am blamed for her being Down & all this [illegible] in gitting her up &c—But I think that if its rightly considered I am not blameable—for if she had been secured with the anker & Cable with her the Night of the Lanch, its proverable that she wood—not sunk—she then, nor never was in my Charge, But in the charge of the man that you approved of as foreman, I nam^d making her fast—but was hooted at—But now, no one knows what to do with her, she is considered at my charge—I have bin already at a great Exspence in triing to git her up But as yet it has not bin in my power—I wish her up & at Washington, But that wont git her there—or if she had bin Calke^d up to her gunel she wood not have Sunk—I am not Sertain but what—(2) She wood have Sunk, had She bin Secured with the anker & Cable, at the Lanch, for the Cable was rotten—But had it hilt her we cold not prevent its raining, and all the water that fell on her, went into her, and then there was no way to git it out—you talk of buckets &c to free her, Surely you have not considred that her Lower Deck is Layrd, & no way only at her hatch to free her, and that at such a Distance from the water in her hole, over her gunel—I woodnot fear betting a [illegible] wagon, that all Hyde County & washington to assist them cold not dischar[g]e water out of her with tubs, half as fast as one hand cold, cud he git at it, and work to advantage, But all this amounts to nothing, I am willing to do what is right, if you want & intend taking the vessel doo Send on the things necessary to my assistance—& if you dont I must Send up myself after her pumps &c. I am as usel your Friend &c

21th Oct^r 1805—

John Gaylard

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington

John Gaylard to John Gray Blount

BROAD CREEK 3th No^{vr} 1805

John Gray Blount Esquire

Dear Sir, I Re^d yours p^r M^r Wilkinson Dated the 28th Oct^r Last—and have observed its contents &c—and Surely you have Miscontrude Som,

or all of my Letters, for I never Sayd, thought, or wrote that you Shud not have the vessel—for it wood denote Ignorence in me to Say that you Shud, or Shud not have the vessel, as I cant, nor dont wish to command you; But to Leave that to yourself—you have a Contract by which we are both bound, I dont wish to deviate from the contract, nor never did, all I want or Exspect is to have a Deed for the Mill & Land with her, According to the boundry pointed out by your Brother—General Blount, at your house, in your presents, & at your Request, and the Lease as p^r contract, and pay for her Exstrey additions & alterrations made at your request—and the devishon Line made publick between the Mill Land & Benjⁿ Hollowells Land, as you know that he pretends to clame two hundred Acres of Land within the boundry pointed out by General Blount—wheather his title is good or not I cant Say, as I never See either—this is Certainly nothing new, nor any more then contain^d in the contract—I am sure that there is no dispute between us, nor can there be when we com together for I want nothing but whats right, and I am Sure in my mind that you dont, nor no man of your Rectitude—my wish is for you to have the vessell if you will, as it is a Bargain, be it good or bad—I never made a bargain in my Life that I attempted to fly from—and to call me whimsical you dont do me Justice—her Sinking is a misfortain, & two late to grive about—and youel not be ask^d (2) to have any more of the Exspence in getting up the vessel then you please to bestoe—thoe I am pore Enough, I have more pride, thoe it has bin to me a hard bargain from first to Last, I dont ask you to Soften it—you appear to be vext because your Rigging is damaged, I cold not avoide using of it as I had not half Enought with it, the damage I am willing to pay if ask^d and so I am for all I do, to meterels Sent down to my assistance for her—I want no more, that I no of to git her up & freed then the pumps and a good Long creaning fall & Blocks which I hope youel please to Send, if you have not a good fall & blocks of your own please to git me one on the best tirms you can, as my famile is so & has bin for a Long time that I cant leave home therefore I cant com up to See to my busness, therefore request you to, and dispatch the flatt off as Soon as posable, as I am in a great hurrey to have her up and finished before it gits two cold—But I cant finish her according to contract without being furnished with her in & out knee boults & cam &c and a Calker, if you wish to furnish him as usel—unless you had reather all this Shud be don at Washington—if so I think that you shud board the Calker &c at your Own Exspence to finish her—M^r Lacey never so much as told me that he had drove all the bolt rod, untill Since at getting her up I found it out, there is Som few of her in and out bolts drove but not many—I am a fraid that She has som hole in her bottom, for the tide appears to Ebb & flow in her very quick with

it on the out Side—and Shud that be the case, I cant heave her over so as to Examon her bottom without her side being first Calked—further you wrote me that I wood not Let the vessel com up, nor assist in getting her up when you Sent down hands for that purpos &c—But realey you are mistaken in each—it is not so—(3) for I don all that I cold & shud have Let her com notwithstanding I was told on the day before your hands Started home, that you entended getting the property in procession & then taking the advantage in the Settlement with me, for I wrote you then that I didnot beleave it—you also Speake of a Reference which I dont understand, I dont know what they can have to do or say—for I no of no dispute between us—and I am sure that there cant be aney, nor wont be at all, for I feal two Liberel about the busness to admit of aney dispute—for if you have the vessel you are willing to pay for her I am sure, and if you wish not to take her you are at liberty as I wrote you before, so I am Sure that there cant be any dispute—But Shud there be any thing to Referre, I shall have do Objetions, for I never had a dispute but I was willing to have it Referred—But we shall want non and can settle our own busness ourselves—Capⁿ W^m Ponnunk⁴² has had or his Brother for him your flat a week putting Lumber on board of his vessel, and is intitled to pay you for the Same, his Brother com up with hands after about 20 M Shinglis and brung no craft to carrey them in, and was willing to run the risk of taking your flat if I was willing—I didnot objet to it suposeing that you had as leave git wagons for her, as for her to ly idle—

I am your Ob^t HSer^t
John Gaylard

NB I am willing that you Shud take her when up & freed, which I Expect will be in a Day or two, after I git her Pumps & a takel fall &c— Provided that youel have her Deficiency of work valued here before She goes—also please to Send me five or Six Bushels of Salt, if you have any for Sale

JG

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

p^r
Mr Johⁿ Wilkinson

⁴²Captain William Pennock was a partner in the mercantile firm of Pennock, Nicholson, and Skipwith. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 17n.

*David Greene & Son to John Gray Blount*BOSTON Nov^r 16th 1805M^r J. G. Bland⁴³

Washington

N^o Carolina

Sir

We have been favoured with your letter of October 11th—Your Naval stores have arrived & you may rely on our exertions to make the most of them—Tar is now, quite brisk—At foot are the various prices—Agreeably to your orders, we will ship you the brown Soap & New England Rum—We cannot but smile at the information you have received of Rum's being cheaper & better in *Charlestown* than in Boston—Charlestown is a snug Town adjoining this, but which *gets its supplies from Boston*—You may feel easy about your Rum's being purchased reasonably—

It will be gratifying to us, to support a lively correspondence with you—We beg leave to refer you for any information you may wish respecting us, to our mutual Friend David Clark⁴⁴ of Plymouth (2) or to any respectable Merchant of this Town—

We are very respectfully
your ob Serv^t

David Greene & Son

Tar	\$3.50 @ 3.75
Pitch	4.00 @ 4.25
Rosin	3.00 @ 3.25
Sp'ts Turpentine	.30 @ .33
Corn	1 @ 10 @ 1.15
Staves Hh'd W.O	\$38 @ 39
do Pipe	60 @ 61

Addressed: M^r J. G. Bland

Washington

N^o Carolina

⁴³ John Gray Blount did not have a good, clear handwriting. Greene must not have been able to read the spelling of Blount's last name.

⁴⁴ For David Clark see 1803, n. 63.

*John Gaylard to John Gray Blount*BROAD CREEK 30th Dec^r 1805John Gray Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir, I now Send up in the vessel all the things belonging to her and you that are here—and also the takel fall & Blocks that Capⁿ Alderson⁴⁵ Sent down to me, which I wish him to receive the blocks, and also the fall provided he is willing to take thirty Dollars for all the use of the fall & Blocks—and if not, please to have it taken care of, and furnish it with Blocks yourself if you please, and give my Compliments to Samuel Topping⁴⁶ & tell him to take care of it for me if he pleases, as it will be of no determent to his Business, and hire it out, and of the first money pay for the Blocks, the vessel also lining up a Capson which will do to work it with—I am your

Obe^t HSer^t
John Gaylard

[No address]

⁴⁵This was probably Captain John Alderson. See 1805, n. 18.

⁴⁶Samuel Topping is listed in the federal census of 1820 for Hyde County as the father of five children. He was probably the son or brother of Thomas Topping, a slave overseer who lived in the same area as John Gaylard. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 601n; Potter, . 1820 *North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 15.

1806

Roulhac¹ to John Gray Blount

HERMITAGE Jan^y 2^d 1806

Dear Sir

Give my leave to recommend to your humanity a poor Widow, my neighbour, the Bearer of y^e Present, M^{rs} Steward; She was Lately Informed that her land had been Sold for the Direct tax & that you had Bought it; She applyed to me to Know what She had best do, & was very allarmed at the Information being a Simple woman very Industrious & loaded with a family of Small children; I told her She Should not make herself uneasy, as I imagined the time allowed for the owners of Land Sold for that, to redeem it, was not expired, & that I presumed your purchasing was merely to Save the land & put it in her power to take advantage of the provision in the Law; I advised her to go up as Soon as possible to See you about it; & at her desire give her these few lines. I presume She will be able to Settle this matter with you as the Sum can not be much; Should it exceed her present ability, I will chearfully Suply y^e deficiency. I remain with respect

D^r Sir

Yours Sincerely
Roulhac

Addressed: Jn^o Grey Blount
Esq^{re}
Washington

fav^d By M^{rs}
El. Steward

¹This was probably John Roulhac. See 1803, n. 73.

Richard Tuck to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE Jany 28th 1806

John G Blount Esqr

Capt Midget² in the Sloop Swift goes to Washington with a load of Salt from your Brig. He will take part of a Load down if to be had Please have the Goodness to Supply him with as much Wood as will Compleat his Lading if no freight is to be had he will take a full Load of Wood He is much in want of Boalt Rope Sufficient for a new Jib Supply him with it if to [be] had at Washington

Yours with Respect
For Rich^d Tuck
Ellen Tuck³

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Merchant
Washington

Will of John Strother⁴ [copy]

[November 22, 1806]

I John Strother of the County of Buncombe and State of North Carolina being of sound & perfect mind and memory do make this my last will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say first, I give and bequeath to my beloved friend John Gray Blount Sen^r of the Town of Washington and State of North Carolina and his heirs and assigns forever the following real estate (that is to say) all the lands which I own or hold claim to by virtue of a Sheriffs Deed situate lying and being in the County of Buncombe aforesaid on big Pigeon river and its waters also all the lands I hold or lay claim to by virtue of a Sheriffs Deed situate lying and being in said County of Buncombe in the vicinity of Ashville also on big Ivy river and its waters also on big laurel river and its waters also on

²The records of the Midget family of Dare County date back to a Matthew Midget in 1772. He had four sons whose descendants were numerous. Members of the Midget family still live on the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Exactly which Captain Midget this letter refers to remains unclear. Stick, *The Outer Banks*, 32, 33, 65, 73, 170, 223, 266, 277, 318.

³Ellen Tuck was apparently the wife of Richard Tuck. See 1805, n. 20.

⁴For John Strother see 1804, n. 3.

French Broad river and all its waters and also all the lands I hold or lay claim to in said County of Buncombe on Caney River and its waters—I also give and bequeath to my said friend John Gray Blount his heirs and assigns all the benefits and profits arising out of a contract I made with Micajah Williamson, Buckner Harris and Samuel Gardner all of the County of Jackson and State of Georgia when the contract was made which contract lies with my papers in the State of North Carolina in Buncombe County—I also give and bequeath to my Brother George Strother one half of all the lands (2) I hold in the County of Buncombe and State of North Carolina by virtue of Entries made in the Entry office of said County in my own name or in the name of myself & Joseph Dobson⁵ or any other person—the other half of said lands I will to be sold to the best advantage and after paying all my just Debts out of the proceeds of said sale if any should be left I will the same to Flora Inman—I also give and bequeath to my Brother George Strother and my Step Brother James Lockhart⁶ whatever real property I may be entitled to in the State of Tennessee with a lien thereon of a Legacy to my mother except one thousand acres to be of an aggregate quality with the rest of my lands in said State, which one thousand acres I give and bequeath to two children which Flora Inman has laid to my charge (but whether proper or not she only Knows) by name Polly and Caroline, and if either of those children should die without issue the surviving one is to inherit the one thousand acres given as aforesaid and should both the said Children to wit Polly and Caroline children of the said Flora Inman's charged to me die without issue then the aforesaid thousand acres of land is to revert to and become the property of my Brother George Strother and James Lockhart their Heirs and assigns

I refer my Executors to William P. Anderson⁷ of (3) Tennessee and Colonel William Polk of Raleigh N Carolina for the particulars of what interest I may be entitled to in the State of Tennessee

I give and bequeath unto my mother Mary Lockhart an annual legacy of one hundred & fifty Dollars during her life to be paid to my said mother by my Brothers James Lockhart and George Strother out of my Tennessee Estate; and lastly as to all the rest residue and remainder of

⁵Joseph Dobson of Burke County was a surveyor and land speculator who surveyed much of Buncombe County. He allegedly acquired a great deal of land by questionable means. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 658-659.

⁶James Lockhart, stepbrother of John Strother, was assigned nine acres of land in June, 1819, by John King. These nine acres were part of an eighty-acre land warrant that John King received from John Strother. Land Warrant 3198, Tennessee State Archives.

⁷William P. Anderson was a Tennessee land speculator who bought up numerous land warrants. Land Warrants 3196, 4612, 4649, 5219, and others, Tennessee State Archives.

all my personal or real estate of what kind so ever I give and bequeath the same to my said Brothers George Strother and James Lockhart whom I hereby together with John Gray Blount Sen^r appoint my Executors of this my last will and Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and seal this 22^d day of November One thousand eight hundred and six

signed John Strother (Seal)

Declared by the said John Strother to be his last will and Testament in presence of us—and acknowledged the Signature to be his hand & Seal

Signed

James Hawkins⁸

John Drake⁹

(4) The foregoing is a copy from the original

W. G. Blount¹⁰

Copy

Will of Jno Strother

⁸James Hawkins, like the other witness John Drake, was probably a land surveyor. On April 2, 1784, he acquired land warrant number 507, which contained 640 acres. Land Warrant 507, Tennessee State Archives.

⁹John Drake was a land surveyor in Tennessee who bought up some land warrants. Land Warrant 3188, Tennessee State Archives.

¹⁰W. G. Blount could represent a misreading of Strother's handwriting, or it could refer to William Grainger Blount, who might have copied the Strother will for John Gray Blount.

1807

Pleasant M. Miller¹ to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE January 17th 1807

D^r Sir

The Bearer of this letter as far as Raleigh is a messenger from this State. for the Book containing the Entries &c in Armstrongs office, I presume that he will bring them & Such other documents as will Authorize the issuing of grants from this State. I have spoken to McClellan² on the subject of your Entries he says he got his information from McClung³ I have no doubt the fact, Wou'd it not be well to Authorize some person here to obtain the warrants from the office by power of attorney, I hear also of a number of warrants in circulation assigned by yourself & Thomas Blount perhaps some of those assignments were forgeries 'woud it not be well to shape a power of attorney to meet such a case—I have not seen any of the persons concerned in the Duck river⁴ Lands so can give no information on that head—in case it Shoud turn Out that the supposed number of warrants are really in the office, I want two or three thousand acres of them (2) I want to know on what Terms they can be procured—a speedy attention to those warrants will be necessary on your part by Our Law—I arrived at home on the 26th of December & found all well Since my arrival I had the misfortune to have my left hand badly cut with a cotton Machine it is on the recovery perhaps indeed it pretty certain I shall Loose the use of one of my fiddle fingers my family are all well. I have not heard from cumberland since

¹For Pleasant M. Miller see 1803, n. 26.

²This was probably Sergeant John McClellan, a Revolutionary War soldier, who bought up several land warrants in Tennessee. Land Warrant 3343 and others, Tennessee State Archives.

³Charles McClung was a friend, political lieutenant, and business associate of William Blount. He lived in Knox County, Tennessee. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 184n.

⁴The Duck River originates in present Coffee County, south of Nashville, and meanders through central Tennessee before emptying into the Tennessee River.

my arrival, Burrism⁵ gains no ground here, tis said he has frinds in cum-berland, we know nothing hear but from the papers which you will see remember me respectfully to your family & Mrs Blount & Eliza & Reading & his family, tell Orr. & his Richmond companions I had a hard time of it coming out

Pleasant M. Miller

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Post Master
Washington
North Carolina

G. Toole to John Gray Blount

[February 11, 1807]

Dear Sir:

I have not yet Received the sugar [illegible] I wrote to you for. If you Cannot make it [illegible] to send me the Coffe & sugar at this time, you will oblidge me in sending the balance of the Corn money by the Return of Mr OBryan. If you send the sugar & Coffee let it be [manuscript torn] as I am quite without, say one barrel of best brown sugar & fifty pound W^t of Coffee—I am yours Respectfully

G. Toole
Feby. 11th 1807

⁵This reference is to Aaron Burr and his famous "conspiracy." Burr (1756-1836) was a United States senator from New York (1791-1797) and vice-president of the United States. While still serving as vice-president in 1804, Burr made an unsuccessful bid to be elected governor of New York. Charges made against Burr by Alexander Hamilton during the gubernatorial campaign brought on a duel between the two. Burr killed Hamilton and fled to South Carolina to keep from being indicted for murder in New Jersey. Although he returned to Washington and completed his term as vice-president, Burr was totally discredited politically. This led him in 1805 and 1806 to plan some sort of western adventure, the nature of which is not clear to this day. He apparently planned to restore his political fortunes by seizing territory west of the Mississippi River, but he told different stories to different people concerning his plan. Several prominent Americans indicated support for him—Andrew Jackson among them. But in 1807 Burr was captured in the Mississippi Territory and taken to Richmond, Virginia, where he was tried for treason. He was acquitted in a trial presided over by Chief Justice John Marshall. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 675; Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 144-164. Also, see William Tatham's reference to Burr's capture below. William Tatham to John Gray Blount, February 19-20, 1807.

If you send the sugar & Coffee let it be to the Care of Mich^l Hearne Merch^t Tarbo—

I have 3 or 400 Barrels of Indian Corn, & 2 or 300 bushel of Cow pees for sale.

G. Toole

Addressed: M^r John G Blount
Merch^t
Washington

favour
M^r OBryan

Benjamin Tyler, Jr.,⁶ to Thomas Blount

CLAREMONT N. HAMPSHIRE Feb, 13th 1807

Hon^d Sir—

I received your letter on the ninth instant bearing Date 7th December last directed to my Father, he being absent and my Brother & my self now owning the Patent. I take the liberty of giving an answer. You wish for our opinion concerning our consstruced Grist-mill—we can recommend them with safety on streams of your discription, as you have five feet head & fall at most, but sometimes less, a mill of this construction can perform business well when the wheel is drouded in back-water—I wish you to write whether it would be convenient for you to wait until October or November and whether it is a healthy place that we might from our Nothern Climate tarry with safety through the summer season. Mills on this consstruction are not so expensive to build and much less expensive to keep in repair than the ordinary construction. If you wish to proceed to erect your mill sooner you will be so good as to state the time, also to state the number of runs of stones you wish to put in operation—then I will give you the size of the Mill-House Gate-way free, as for the price we have here two Dollars per Day and all found but

⁶In 1767 Benjamin Tyler, Sr., built the first dam across the Sugar River at Claremont, New Hampshire, and erected a small grist- and sawmill. He also started a forge and smelting works. In 1775 he erected another gristmill and in 1800 a flax mill. No information has been found on his son, Benjamin, Jr. Written by Workers of the Federal Writers' Project, *New Hampshire: A Guide to the Granite State* (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Company, 1938), 128.

should not think it an Object to go such a distance for that price—wish you to state the price workmin at that business have in your Country and what you would be willing to give then I will give you a [illegible] answer and Bill of timber—Please to write immedeatly on receiving this, the Patent right is thirty Dollars for each run of stones

I have the Honor to be your &c
Benjamin Tyler Junior

Hon. Thomas Blount

Addressed: Hon. Thomas Blount
Member of Congress
from North Carolina at the City of Washington

William Tatham⁷ to John Gray Blount

[February 19-20, 1807]

D^r Sir/

Every day sence I came here (on Christmas day) I have expected to get a Sum of Money from the Treasury & return to your country. I have waited for an answer from M^{rs} Merry,⁸ who is at Alexandria, touching the Costs of Suit stated in your Son's letter, & which I transmitted. She has not sent the money, & the severity of this day's rain has prevented my getting the thirteen Dollars odd cents in time for this post; but will endeavour to send it next mail. (2) I am allso under acceptance to you for

⁷William Tatham, a friend of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, was an inventor, surveyor, and scientist. In the autumn of 1806 he made a careful survey of the Outer Banks from Cape Hatteras to Cape Lookout using a whaleboat. All of his notes, along with his baggage, charts, and instruments, were swept away by a hurricane. G. Melvin Herndon, "The 1806 Survey of the North Carolina Coast, Cape Hatteras to Cape Fear," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XLIV (Summer, 1972), 242-253; Stick, *The Outer Banks*, 80-82.

⁸The Merrys referred to were probably Sir Anthony Merry and his wife. Sir Anthony was England's minister to the United States at this time. He and his wife despised Washington, and both were appalled at President Jefferson's failure to show proper deference to the British diplomat. Merry apparently had several conversations with Aaron Burr about the latter's western scheme. Merrill D. Peterson, *Thomas Jefferson and the New Nation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), 731-734, 794, 797, 823, 832, 842, 843, hereinafter cited as Peterson, *Thomas Jefferson*.

M^r Reintzels Bal^e of One hundred Eighty odd Dollars which I hope will come next mail as I only wait for M^r Gallatin's⁹ Attention to it.

Your Bro^t & myself have had jarrings: I am ill treated, which would not have happened with you; but I understand the Shell Castle interest better than he does, & am acting right for y^r interest, as well as the publics.

I beg, if any Accident delays me you will not let the trifle of Costs stand against me (3) in M. Merrys case—[manuscript obscured by wax] Shall be immediately [manuscript obscured by wax] whether M^r Merry sends it or not.

Burr is taken [illegible] Express came in before him this morning—

Y^{rs} Wm Tatham
19th to 20th Feby. 1807
City of Washington

J. G. Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Post Master
Washington, Tar River
N. Carolina

Samuel Pate to John Gray Blount

[February 22, 1807]

State of North Carolina Beaufort County M^r John G Blount Sir this Comes with My former Respects to you to let you know that it has ever bin out of my power to git The land Run out that I agreed with you for But now george Farris is at home and he Says he will Run it out in Short

⁹Albert Gallatin (1761-1849) was born in Geneva, Switzerland. He immigrated to the United States in 1780, ultimately settling in Pennsylvania. After serving several terms in the Pennsylvania legislature, he was elected as a Jeffersonian to the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth congresses as a member of the House of Representatives. In 1801 Thomas Jefferson appointed him secretary of the treasury, a post he held until 1814. For the next thirteen years he held various diplomatic posts. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 981.

and Sir then I Shall Come up immediately and See you So I Subscribe
my Self your Well wishing friend

Samuel Pate

February the 22^d 1807

Addressed: M^r John G. Blount
State of North
Carolina Beaufort
County

William Tatham to John Gray Blount

1807—4th March CITY OF WASHINGTON

D^r Sir

Your Brother¹⁰ & M^{rs} Blount left this place this Morning—you will receive, by them, Valentine Reinzels Balance—M^r Merrys Costs vs Robinson for your Son (\$13-61/100,) of which please inform him, & some small Charge which I think he told me he paid postage at Tarborough for me.

I regret that Your Brother (& M^{rs} B. whom God knows I never offended) have been of a Congress party, to suppress my prosperity in life, for reasons unknown to me—I will give *you* the detail, *not them*: I never deserved ill of anyone.

We have had Sudden deaths here: two appoplexies yesterday—M^r Hamilton¹¹ & one other & M^r Baldwin¹² of the Senate dead to day, & to be buried to morrow, at the same house.

Both the Randolphs,¹³ are very ill, & the President unwell.—Y^{rs}—

Wm Tatham

J. G. Blount Esq^r

¹⁰Thomas Blount was, at this time, a member of the House of Representatives. In business with his older brother John Gray Blount, Thomas was in charge of the Blount store at Tarboro. He was also prominent in politics at the local, state, and national levels. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xxv-xxvii.

¹¹John Hamilton was a Democratic-Republican member of the United States House of Representatives for a Pennsylvania district during the Ninth Congress (1805-1807). He did not die at this time but lived until 1837. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1057.

¹²Abraham Baldwin was a Georgia Federalist who served his state in both houses of Congress. From 1799 until his death on March 4, 1807, he was in the United States Senate. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 544.

¹³For John Randolph see 1803, n. 95. Thomas Mann Randolph, also from Virginia, was the son-in-law of Thomas Jefferson. He served in the House of Representatives during the Eighth and Ninth congresses (1803-1807). He did not die until 1828. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1584-1585.

(2) P.S. My losses &c are *some how* allowed in the appropriation bill, & I shall be with you as soon as possible—

W.T.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
(Post Master)
Washington
N. Carolina.

Thomas Trotter¹⁴ to John Gray Blount

LAKE PHELPS¹⁵ 14th April 1807

Sir,

Inclosed is the dimentions of a Rice machine house, a threshing Machine, house & one for a Grist & flour mill, the Rice Machine, and threshing Machine houses are as small as they will Ansure, the threshing Machine I have here is 30 feet by 25, which affords room to fill in as much Grain, when there is any prospect of Rain as I can thresh in two thirds of a day, when it rains, which saves me a deal of time, the Size of the one recomended to you, is Just the size required to work a 6 feet drum in the upper Story, in the lower Story will only stand a fan where the Grain runs through a greating in the floor from the threshing Machine, into it, The Grist & Flour Mill the size of it will depend much on the way it is put to work, whether by undershot or Tub Wheels but the Size I mention, I expect will ansure both ways. as there is requird a great deal of Room for Botling & packing flour, as to the Cotten Machine I am but little acquainted with it, to give any dimentions,

Should you want a draught or any instructions that I am able to give you, at any time I shall always be ready to serve you,

When you come to look at these Machines here, I will inform you of the different, manner and ways they may be work'd, after knowing the

¹⁴Thomas Trotter apparently lived in Washington, North Carolina (Beaufort County), or lived at Lake Phelps in Washington County and attended the First Presbyterian Church in Washington. He was appointed to the building committee of that church in 1824. Reed, *Beaufort County*, 146.

¹⁵Lake Phelps, located in Washington County, is bordered on the east by Tyrrell County. Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*, 270.

high of live water at the head, and also the length of the Canal, and the difference of the level between the water in the Lake, and the River,

I am Sir Your Most Obed^t Serv^t
Thos Trotter

(2) Dimentions of a House for a Rice Machine

Length 40 feet

Breadth 35 ditto three Storys high

1st Story 9 feet, 2^d ditto 8 feet, 3^d ditto 8 feet pitch

it will require a Sett of posts & interstices in the middle as it requires two setts of Joists to reach across the House.

Dimentions of a House for a threshing Machine

Length 25 feet

Breadth 20 feet two Storys high

1st Story 8 feet, 2^d ditto 8. feet pitch

Dimentions of a House for a Grist & flour Mill

Length 40 feet 3 Storys high

Breadth will be to allow 12 feet for every pair of Stones

1st Story 9. feet 2^d ditto 8 feet & 3^d 8 feet pitch—

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington N.C.

William McKenzie¹⁶ to John Gray Blount

6th May 1807

Dear Sir

I am sorry I was not at home when your note of 1st of May came. I fear the Person you sent for Fish got disappointed, the Seins hereabouts have been very unsuccessful.

I saw Thomas B. Hill a few Days ago, some Person has lately been telling him of a Place called new Currituck where large quantities of very fine Cattle are raised & sold at a very moderate Price, as I presume you are well acquainted with the place & can give the necessary Information, I beg the Favour of you at your Leisure to inform me whether you suppose about a hundred Stears from five years old and upwards could

¹⁶William McKenzie of Martin County was a friend of John Gray Blount and also a colleague in the North Carolina Senate in 1797. He died in 1810. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 106n.

readily be procured & at what Prices M^r Hill proposes if he meets with Encouragement to go down in the month of July to purchase & bring off the Stears. I confess I have not much Faith in his Information but he is very full of it & I am to be concerned in the purchase if made, we want the Stears to stallfeed. Be pleased to present my best Respects to M^{rs} Blount & Family & I am with Esteem

Dear Sir yr Ob^t Ser^t
W^m M^cKenzie

NB The note brought by your little Son was mislaid before I got home I suppose he was on the same Business with the other Person & I fear had the same Luck

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington

Benjamin Tyler, Jr., to John Gray Blount

CLAREMONT NEW HAMPSHIRE May 25th 1807

M^r Blount,

Sir I Receiveed your letter some time since & my time being much taken up with bussiness I have neglected to write you an answer much longer than I had ought to, but now I will give an answer as fully as I can Respecting your mill, our mills with four feet head and fall Clear from back water she will go with suffishent power to Grind ten bushels per hour, I think 3 or 4 bushels per hour she will grind with four feet head and fall and two feet of water on the sheeting below, with three feet head and fall without back water I think she must grind four or five bushels per hour each run of stones, on placees of your Disscription we put the water on the wheel in two placees I think that sixteen inches square of water will be suffishent on each place, that will make four gaps 16 inches square to turn two run of stones I think that your canal or race wil not be wide a nough to vent the water that it will take to turn two run of stones but you can try the experiment and satisfy your self wether it is wide a nough or is not, in this way by leting as much water from your head as I have above stateed that it will take to turn two run of stones that will show you at once how high the water will rise when your mills are in action, I think that mills on our plan on a place like yours will do better than any other plan that I know of, they answer a valuable purpose for tide mills they will run in back water better than any other

wheel that I know of, I will give you Dementions for your mill house so far as will be nessessary to convene our kind of mills, the sizze of the mill house you will Dictate as will best suit your self, your mill (2) house will want to stand end ways to the front of your floom where the water is taken from to carry the mills, the house will want to be thirty feet wide and as much wider as you think will be proper and as long the other way as you think best the upper end of the house next the front is where the wheels will stand and there want to be twelve feet space left between the upper outside sill to the first cross sill your sills will want to stand five feet above the bottom of your race the under side of the sills so as to give room for the wheels under the floor, I do not think that a mill on any plan can be made to do Business on your place with a canal so narrow as yours the water must pile up strangely in the distance of three miles haveing no fall, if you conclude to build on our plan you will inform as soon as may be convenient and we will be on in the month of october or november Next

I am your servent ser^{nt}
Benjamin Tyler, Jun^r

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount
Washington North carolina
Post master

Peter Lalanne & Co.¹⁷ to John Gray Blount
[printed form letter]

NEW-YORK, 1st July, 1807

M

WE take the liberty of informing you, that we have entered into co-partnership, under the firm of PETER LALANNE, & Co. as Commission Merchants, at St. Pierre, in the Island of Martinique.

James Lalanne, Esq. the chief of the house of Lelanne & Pitault Freres, of that place, will guarantee the due performance of our engagements. Our capital and resources being ample, we have no doubt of being able to render our friends every service.

¹⁷There was a James Lalanne who was an adventurer in the West Indies in 1788. He had owed John Gray Blount money. If that was the same James Lalanne mentioned in this letter, his luck had apparently changed for the better. Peter Lalanne must have been a relative, perhaps the son of James Lalanne. They seem to have operated mercantile firms in both New York City and Martinique. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, 282, 421-422.

Those who are unacquainted with our characters and responsibility,
we beg leave to refer to

HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR TOMPKINS¹⁸

JOHN JUHEL.	}	New-York
FOSTER & GIRAUD.		
FRANCIS BREUIL.	}	Philadelphia
WILLIAM HAMON.		
JOHN CARRERE, ¹⁹		Baltimore

Subjoined are our respective signatures, and should you be disposed to
favor us with your business, no exertion shall be wanting on our part, to
give you entire satisfaction.

We remain very respectfully,
Your most obedient Servants,

SIGNATURE OF PETER LALANNE.

Pr^e Lalanne & C

SIGNATURE OF ARCHD. MNE. COCK.

Peter Lalanne & C^o

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Merch^t
Wasshington NC

Kimbrow Jones²⁰ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH July 5th 1807

Sir With Pleasure I meet the favour of this opportunity in Rendering
you my Service. & wou^d be A still Greater Satisfaction if I Cou^d Rinder

¹⁸Daniel D. Tompkins (1774-1825) was governor of New York from 1806 to 1817, when he became vice-president of the United States. He was elected to the Ninth Congress but resigned before the term started so that he could serve as an associate justice of the New York Supreme Court. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1823.

¹⁹John Carrere was a Baltimore resident who in 1810 had a three-story brick house on the east side of Harrison Street. The house was frequently used as a point of reference by the city commissioners. *Records of the City of Baltimore City Commissioners, 1797-1813* (Baltimore: City Library, 1906), 103, 158, hereinafter cited as *Records of Baltimore*.

²⁰Kimbrough Jones represented Wake County in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1809 to 1812, and in 1819. In 1854 he became a member of the Council of State. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 178, 257, 259, 261, 263, 275.

you A favour. Agreeable to my promise I mentiond to Col Cooke whether it woud be Convenient to take Another Boarder. & then Informed him who. he replyd that he Coud not take him for Less than Seventy five Dollars or At the rate of Seventy five p^r year. Tuision depends on the Studies but any Branch of the Studies will be taught as Reasonable as in any part of the State where the Same Care & Attention is paid to the Student. it is quite probable that Board might be had for Sixty Dollars at Respectable Houses. And if you think proper to Send the young Gentleman to Raleigh & wish to Board him for less than Col Cookes terms I will Certainly Aid him in Seeking Some Agreeable place. Col Cooke further observd that if you thought proper to board him At His House it woud be necsary to mention that he must Have twenty five or thirty Dollars in Advance or at the Commencement of Boarding. the number in School is Dayly Increasing and the order of her Disciplin is much approved of. No vacation will take pace [*sic*] I Suppose untill the first of November next—

I am your most obliging
Ser^t & C Kimbro Jones

Addressed: John Grey Blount
Washington
N^o Carolina

Stephen Miner to John Gray Blount

[July 22, 1807]

John Gray Blount Esqr

D^r Sir

last September when I was in Turkes Island,²¹ I left in the hands of M^r William Dean the money for two hundred & fifty three Bushels of Salt that was Put onboard a Vessel that he was loading \$75-90— When I Called at Turk Island last Voyage to Jamaica, he was in Providence his Brother Michael informed me that he had money in your hands, and that he would write you and Desire you to Pay me that amt.

²¹Turk's Island was a West Indian island owned by Great Britain and best known as the major salt market in the West Indies. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 308n.

Please Sir to inform me if you have Received any Such orders from M^r
Dean

I am Sir your
Obdiant Servant
Stephen Miner

New Bern July 22^d 1807

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
Washington

John McDonnold²² to John Gray Blount

OVERTON COURTHOUSE TENNESSEE STEATE
August 23th 1807

Sir, I take the liberty of informing you that some time ago I became interested—in some land that lies in this County, adjoining lands as I am Informed that you Purchased from a Mr Oliver Smith²³ of your Steate which lands, cannot be astablished at this time in this Steate Moses Fisk informs me that you was to give him a Six hundred and forty acres lott for astablishing of Shappars Claim of land in this County—him and myself has Taken Considerable troble in searching—but without suckses, one of the corners is certainly Known to be Shappars Corner of the above lands—but not Known which—now Sir the only Remedy is to Send for the Chain bearers Who are noted woodsmen in this Steate I am informed that they are living in Massicipi Country some where and Can be had—

the Claim of land that is held by Shappard in this County will now Strike the vary Sentree of the County and of Cource will be valuable I think Sir, that the way now to do is, to write to the Chain bearers and offer them somethinge that will make it worth theree adtention to Com and Show the biggining Corner, I think that the Six hundred and forty offered Mr Fisk for astablishing of the land Which he Cannot do, had better be given to the Chain bearers to Come and Show the Corner—the

²² All that is known about John McDonnold is that he was a citizen of Overton County, Tennessee. He inherited some land in that county in 1832. Edythe Rucker Whitley (comp.) *Tennessee Genealogical Records: Overton County* (Nashville, Tenn.: Privately printed by the compiler, 1967), 15, 17.

²³ For Oliver Smith see 1803, n. 34.

men are well Known in this state and are of the Names of James Channingham and Andrew Reed—I believe that they are marked to all of the pattens at least all of them that I Seed if you will write to me and give me instrutions how to write to them, I, can and, I will write at any time by post—the lands Sir are worth your adtention This from your humble Servant

John McDonnold

To Mr John G Blunt

Addressed: Mr John Gray Blunt in the
Steate of North Carlinea
Pitt County at or near
greenvill Town

*Thomas Blount to Nathaniel Alexander*²⁴

TARBOROUGH 29th Aug. 1807

Sir

There are in Edgecombe County a number of Gentlemen, who, feeling as Americans should do in the present situation of our affairs, desire to place themselves in the Detachment of Militia lately called for by the President of the United States, but they are unwilling to serve under some of the Militia officers that may happen to be drawn into Service by the principle established to govern appointments, and entertain some doubt whether, if they should turn out voluntarily as they wish to do, in sufficient numbers to form one or two Companies, your Excellency would grant Commissions to men chosen by themselves to command such Company or Companies. I have expressed to them an opinion founded upon what I think a fair construction of the 3^d Section of the act entitled "An Act authorizing a Detachment of the Militia of the United States," that you may exercise such power and the object of this Letter is

²⁴Nathaniel Alexander was governor of North Carolina, 1805-1807. This letter is in the Governors Papers, XXX, Nathaniel Alexander, North Carolina State Archives. It refers to the diplomatic crisis provoked in 1807 by the British ship *Leopard*'s attack on the American naval vessel *Chesapeake*. The American public, almost as one voice, clamored for war against Great Britain. From this letter it is obvious that not a few North Carolinians along with other Americans appealed for action and expected something to be done. Instead of war Jefferson decided on the ill-fated embargo policy. Peterson, *Thomas Jefferson*, 875-882; Smelser, *Democratic-Republic*, 158, 159.

to know whether you concur with me in that opinion or, in other words, whether, if such Company or Companies, either Infantry or Cavalry, should be formed, you will grant Commissions to such Persons to command them as they themselves may make choice of & recommend to you?

Should you answer to this Question, which I will thank you to give as soon as convenient (2) and in an explicit manner, be favorable to their wishes, I have reason to believe that it will give us not only more Volunteers, but more of that Class of our Citizens who are best qualified to form such an army as would be most useful at the commencement of a War—I mean genteel, active, bold & enterprizing young men who have been well educated, and who in the Event of a War would probably be willing to accept appointments in a regular army, if such an army should become necessary, as men of that description generally hereabouts express aversion to putting themselves voluntarily under the command of some of the Militia officers who may be entitled by Seniority to command the Troops directed to be raised, although their Bosoms burn with ardour to avenge their Country's wrongs.

I have the honor to be
with very great Respect
Yo. h & Ob^t

Tho. Blount MGen^l
3^d Division N^o Ca.

His Excellency

Governor Alexander

Addressed: His Excellency

Nathaniel Alexander

Governor &^c &^c

Raleigh N^o Caro.

Richard Tuck to John Gray Blount

[September 22, 1807]

M^r John G. Blount

D. Sir

Last week the Gov²⁵ sent after the Nun Buoy after placing the relieving Buoy at the NW point and taking the other away the Wind increased so

²⁵For John Wallace, the "governor," see 1803, n. 12.

much that the Boys left it on the shoal anchored by a grapling a few nights after it drifted away and lodged down about cedar inlet where it now remains—The Buoy at the Bluff shoal is nearly sunk has never been moved since it was placed there in consequence of the Govenors neglect a general murmer prevails—And Cap^t Wallace declares that if the Governor does not pay more attention he shall be under the necessity of complaining that he is confident some accidents will take place in consequence of the Buoys being out of place and the want of stakes also—Wallace requ[es]ts me to write you—

I have sent to several places for Weather boarding. have been myself to Skeet and can not procure it—If you can furnish it please inform me and at what place and time in order that I may send a lighter for it—Or please inform me where and of whom it is probable that it may be had

Sept 22 1807

Shell Castle

your obed^t serv^t—

Rich^d Tuck

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Merchant
Washington

Richard Tuck to John Gray Blount

[October 8, 1807]

M^r Blount—

D Sir

This day on my way home call'd at Harbour Island to make some inquiry after the Nun Buoy that drifted to Styrons Creek.²⁶ but could learn nothing of it—However found part of the Deck and pump of the one that was planted on the Bluff shoal It has been there several days—I heard a few days after date of my last letter to you that it had sunk and that the mast remain'd out of water but that the Cage had wash'd off—At present the Bluff and S.W poi[n]t remains without Buoys—

²⁶Styron is one of the old family names of Ocracoke Island and eastern North Carolina, although this creek's location has not been pinpointed. A Styron Bay existed in Carteret County on the west side of Core Sound, approximately 1.3 miles southwest of the town of Atlantic. Sharpe, *New Geography of North Carolina*, II, 583; Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*, 479.

Please send by first convenient opportunity a cask of Lime—The Governor has requested me to wait untill he burnt some. but he has relinquish'd the idea of Doing that this Winter—The House is much expos'd for want of Lime much of the plaistering has fallen down—When it rains the water comes in by the sides of the Chimneys and makes it way to every part of the House—Which must be a great injury to the frame—The Stakes have been plac'd within a few days on the Swash and through the Navigation in general—Please make my compts to your family—

Your Obdt. Sevt
Rich^d Tuck

Shellcastle. Oct. 8th 1807

(2) The Juniper came safe please send me 2^b Country mustard

R.T.

October 13th my Boat returnd this day from Cedar Island²⁷ M^r Gaskins²⁸ inform'd them that the Buoy had Lodged on Store's Shoal—Where it now remains—

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Mech^t
Washington

Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE October 25th 1807

D^r Sir

I rec^d your letter dated august. I now write to inform you of our health, Jacob²⁹ is with us & going to the college here. he will probably

²⁷Cedar Island is located between the Carteret County mainland and Ocracoke Island. Sharpe, *New Geography of North Carolina*, I, 52; Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*, 96.

²⁸This reference is probably to Adam Gaskins, a friend of John Wallace who lived on or near Shell Castle. Gaskins unsuccessfully attempted to secure the job as caretaker of the proposed lighthouse on Ocracoke in 1793. Also during that year he sailed as a crew member on the *Beaver*, one of the ships belonging to the Blounts. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 268, 296.

²⁹Jacob Blount was one of the sons of William Blount. Jacob was probably named for his paternal grandfather or uncle. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xixn.

continue one year longer, he is perhaps the most Studious young man in the world. Richard³⁰ was near loosing his life by a fall from his horse about the middle of September last, I do not know that he is yet perfectly restored to his senses, but bid fair to be so when I last hearded from him, Eliza³¹ goes also to college. she studees Geography &c—I rec^d the Barrel of fish in good order, but they have created a continual drought I can not for my life help thinking of the old Jamacee we spoke of, when this is started you may draw in favour of John,³² it will help pay taxes—with respect to the land of Salters³³ I know nothing, I believe the man (2) himself does not know on what lot he leives if I shoud however obtain such information as will enable you to fix a price, I shall let you know, Willie³⁴ is also in Town, being a member of the general assembly & is well, we do not know here what William³⁵ is about as he has not written any body in this quarter, will you let me know as far as you may be informed, Robert Houston,³⁶ is now made Secretary of State, a man by the name of Powell³⁷ is judge in the room H L White³⁸ resigned,

I am with respect

P M Miller

remember me to the family, & to Reading & his family. & M^{rs} Blount & her family. Mary³⁹ & the girls Joins, & may grace & truth rest & abide with you all (3) I forgot to mention that the collodge for East Tennessee is fixed at or near say 1 1/2 miles of Knoxville with an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars, tell general Blount,⁴⁰ if he wants his son to live to

³⁰ Richard Blount was another of William Blount's sons. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xixn.

³¹ Eliza Blount was the youngest of William Blount's daughters. She, Jacob, and Richard were taken in by their older sister, Mary Louisa, wife of Pleasant M. Miller, after the death of William Blount and his wife. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xixn; see also 1804, n. 10.

³² For John Gray Blount, Jr., see 1803, n. 28; 1804, n. 4.

³³ This was probably John or Washington Salter, whose father, Robert Salter, had been involved in the Transylvania Land Company. Much confusion developed over the Salters' land titles. John Gray Blount became involved in this as a result of his association with the Transylvania Company. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 162n.

³⁴ For Willie Blount see 1803, n. 33.

³⁵ William Grainger Blount was the oldest son of William Blount. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xixn.

³⁶ Robert Houston was secretary of state in Tennessee during the period between 1807 and 1811. Rita A. Whitfield, *Tennessee Blue Book* (Nashville: State of Tennessee, 1976), 35.

³⁷ Samuel Powell served as judge of the first circuit court of Tennessee during two separate periods, from 1812 to 1813, and from 1819 to 1836. Joshua W. Caldwell, *Sketches of the Bench and Bar of Tennessee* (Knoxville, Tenn.: Ogden Brothers and Co., Printers, 1898), 17.

³⁸ For Hugh Lawson White see 1804, n. 7.

³⁹ For Mary Louisa Blount Miller, wife of Pleasant M. Miller, see 1804, n. 11.

⁴⁰ For Reading Blount see 1803, n. 25.

a good old age to send him here, I will see that he gets enough to eat, clothes he can do without, except Indeed that he may now & then wear a little Linsey Woolsy

PM Miller

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

Richard Tuck to John Gray Blount

[December 2, 1807]

Dear Sir

Every information relative to the Brig Exchange you will be able to learn from the bearer—The object of this letter is to request that you would be so good as to write you[r] Brother M^r Thomas Blount and recommend Alexander Henderson⁴¹ for our Collector—should it be found necessary to recommend any person I know of no man better calculated to give general satisfaction and more worthy the confidence of the Government—Taylor⁴² has already swindled the Government enough I have forwarded to the Secretary a Statement of such frauds as Taylor has been practicing on him for a long time—corroborated by such testimony as I could collect and from concurring circumstances have reason to suppose that Taylor will be ousted—Taylor is an injury to this place, a material one to Shell Castle—entirely governd by the New bern interest—If Taylor should be removed Mr Blackledge⁴³ may recommend some person from Newbern unless some caution be taken we may have a collector from that place with whom we shall receive Newbern prejudices. Newbern principles impart a Newbern standard by which every thing is to be determin'd here—The selfishness and sufficiency with which that people

⁴¹Ironically, this was probably Alexander Henderson, who became an officer in the Bank of New Bern. Miller, *Recollections*, 35.

⁴²For Captain James Taylor see 1805, n. 17.

⁴³For William Blackledge see 1803, n. 40.

are so strongly markd renders it almost impossible to find a man among them suitable for this office—

I remain your Obd^t Servt
Rich^d Tuck

December 2^d 1807—

Shell Castle—

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Merch^t
Washington

1808

A Contract for Hiring a Slave

[January 1, 1808]

Twelve Months after date we promise to pay or cause to be paid unto John Gray Blount Guardian to Eliza Harvey¹ or order the sum of Thirty two Pounds ten Shillings It being for the hire of negro Dave for one year ending on 1st January 1809 we also promise to pay the Taxes of said negro and furnish him with sufficient Clothing & diet (Agreeable to custom) and at the Expiration of the term of time return the said negro to the Guardian or other person or persons that may be authorized to receive & include in his Clothing a Blanket

Witness our Hands & Seal this 1st day

January 1808

William Augustus Blount²

John M Kerr (Seal)

W Harvey (Seal)

William Blackledge³ to Thomas Jefferson⁴

CITY OF WASHINGTON February 2^d 1808

To the President
of the United States

Sir

Inclosed I have the honor to forward you a memorial of a number of the citizens of the town of Beaufort of the County of Carteret in its vicini-

¹John Gray Blount had many ties with the Harveys through marriage. For example, both he and his brother Reading Blount married Harveys. Eliza Harvey was probably the child of a relative through marriage, but which relative it was has not been determined.

²William Augustus Blount (1792-1867) was a younger son of John Gray Blount, Sr. During the War of 1812 he served in the Eighteenth Infantry Regiment stationed in South Carolina. Although his regiment never engaged in combat, he was elected major general of the sixth division of the North Carolina militia after the war. From 1825 through 1827 he represented Beaufort County in the North Carolina House of Commons, and he served as a trustee of the University of North Carolina from 1826 until his death. Samuel A. Ashe and others (eds.), *Biographical History of North Carolina: From Colonial Times to the Present* (Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen, 8 volumes, 1905-1917), I, 164-166, hereinafter cited as Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*; Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 107n.

³For William Blackledge see 1803, n. 40.

⁴This letter came originally from the Thomas Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress. A xerox copy of it is located in the John Gray Blount Papers, North Carolina State Archives, but why a letter from William Blackledge to Thomas Jefferson shows up in any form in Blount's papers has not been ascertained. For a discussion of what happened in the wake of the *Leopard* and *Chesapeake* incident and the implementation of the embargo policy see 1807, n. 24.

ty praying that they may have some portion of the gunboats sent to them, & a battery erected for at the point of the Inlet for the protection of that town and harbour—The laws on the Subject of Gunboats & fortifications having already passed through Congress, and the money appropriated to these objects being placed at the disposal of your Excellency I have deemed it unnecessary to lay the inclosed before Congress—

In addition to what is stated by the memo (2) rialists I will just remark that in the event of a war, the port of Beaufort immediately becomes of immensely greater importance to the Commerce of North Carolina than it has heretofore been in peace owing to the fineness of its inlet & harbor when compared with Ocracock. During the Revolutionary war all vessels of heavy burthens as well as others which fill to the Southward of Cape Lookout ran into Beaufort rather than run the risque of being taken while lig[h]tering at Ocracock or weathering Cape Look Out, & from Beaufort sent their Cargoes in lighters to such ports on the waters discharging at Ocracock or they saw proper. And should a canal be completed which is begun for the purpose of connecting the waters of Neuse river below Newbern with the waters discharging through Beaufort Harbour at Old Topsail Inlet, as it easily may be and no doubt will be, it will render Beaufort a very important port in peace as well as war. If nothing is done towards the protection of this place, a privateer or trader well manned may at pleasure lay (3) it under Contribution, & from the country around it abounding in Cattle sheep & Hogs they must be invited frequently to visit it for supplies of fresh provisions for their blockading squadron if for no other purpose—

With the highest respect I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's
very Obed^t Serv^t
W^m Blackledge

John Gray Blount to William Buck

WASHINGTON Feby 10th 1808

Cap^t William Buck

Herewith you have the following notes which have been long due but as I hope the men who owe them have become rich in Georgia they will not now hesitate to pay me should you receive the whole or any part please write me and send an Order for me to receive as much of your

money due here or if none owe you here I can give an order to some man about to remove to Georgia & take their notes due here

I am with much esteem
Your most Obed^t
JG. Blount

Lockland Meleny note	
dated 18 July 1795	£41:7:1
paid in Act. Origy	<u>9:1:0</u>
	32:6:1 ball ^e

In ^t from Origy—	
Ja ^s Morse note } dated 25 May 96 }	23.2.11 on [illegible]
In ^t ———	

Cha ^s Whilifreed note } dated 19 June 1784 }	9. 6.1 1/2
In ^t ———	

Ja^s Morse I believe was a Bastard Son of some of the Brooks & used to live up in Pitt & sometimes go by water

Addressed: M^r William Buck
Washington County
State of Georgia

Nathaniel Blount⁵ to John Gray Blount

[March 31, 1808]

Sir

My Charge for attending the funeral of General Blount⁶ is forty shillings, your sending it by my Son Levi, will much

Oblige your Most Obed^t
N Blount

⁵Nathaniel Blount, an Episcopal minister, was a native of Beaufort County. He officiated there and in Pitt County. He was ordained in England. Reed, *Beaufort County*, 139.

⁶For Reading Blount, who died October 13, 1807, see 1803, n. 25.

31st March 1808

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

[Written on reverse side] Red^d of John Gray Blount forty
shillings in full of the within order
March 31st 1808
Levi Blount

James B. White⁷ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH
Decemb 2 1808

D^r Sir/

I was in hopes to have seen you at this place during the Asembly Respecting a Survy of land you Own in Bladen on the South West Side of South River & Both Sides of Moores Swamp the Courses of Which I suppose you have Be pleased to write me to Elizabeth town Bladen County informing me If you would Sell the Same and the price the Survy Contains Seventy Acres the land is of Verry little Value But Joins Som I own therefore would like to purchs your answer as Soon as posible will (2) be Exspected by post

yours

James B White

Addressed: John G. Blont Esqr
M^r Grist North Washington

⁷James B. White of Bladen County represented his county in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1806 and in 1807. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 251, 253.

1809

J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount

[January 29, 1809]

Sir

have Sent by the Flatt 2982 feet Sheething boards & 2677 feet of weather-boarding have had so much water cou'd get no more Sawd and four barrels Flour. the planks you mentioned that was over mark'd must have been mark'd by the Negroes with out my Knowledge

your &c
J H Blount

29th Jany. 1809

Addressed: John G Blount Essquire
Washington

Marshall Dickinson¹ to John Gray Blount

[February 18, 1809]

D^r Sir,

On enquiry respecting the piece of land which M^r Willis is about obtaining a lease, it is believed that no man can afford to put the plantation in order by fences &c for less than two years use, whereas I am told you proposed to give *one*. M^r Jackson & other neighbours of the place are of that opinion. I am willing to be security for Jos. Willis Jr for Such a contract should it be made between you, because I believe him to be honest & industrious, and because I have known him to perform a Similar engagement last year with good faith—and should that agreement be entered into you may consider me as bound on his part—

y^r ob^t ser^t
Marshal Dickinson

¹Marshall Dickinson represented Pitt County in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1819, from 1826 to 1831, and from 1850 to 1851. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 275, 288, 290, 294, 319.

Feby 18 1809

John G. Blount Esq

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Washington

W. Bradley to John Gray Blount

BLADEN COUNTY 21st Feby 1809

Jno. G. Blount esq^r

Dear Sir

I duly received yours which related to M^r White & your Land, I have sold the land to B. White for your old Friend Beaty for One Dollar p^r Acre the Money will be paid on your Executing a Deed, I have Inclosed you the Sherriffs receipt for the past years Taxes—the Deed will be made to Beaty

their appears to be tax money on hand, I will send you an a/c when I send the Money for your land

I am Sir with due
respect your H S^t
W Bradley

Addressed: John G. Blount esq^r
Washington

J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount

[May 20, 1809]

Sir

have Sent 1607 feet plank 955 feet Cypress Scantling 3621 do pine Scantling & 400 do quarterd boards 6 inches wide for Thomas H Blount all your Flour one barrel 108^{lbs} Superfine 61^{lbs} Seconds & 7^{lbs} Thirds mixed

one The wings of the Grist mill was discovered last night about midnight to be caving in & the water running through I had it Stop'd but never could find where the water made through

yr &c
J H Blount

May 20th 1809

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington

John Gray Blount to J. H. Blount

[July 2, 1809]

I send up a Bill of Flooring Plank say 1500 feet 1600 feet long 700 feet Inch Boards 16 feet long 2000 feet of 3/4 Inch quartered 16 feet long & 2000 feet [illegible] without saying what thickness but I suppose Inch 16 feet long the above Bill is for Tho^a Stewart² of Tarb^o and if you have water I wish it compleated as near as may be without too much trouble to come down when the hands can conveniently bring it

I wish the Sheathing for Redmond brought down as soon as possible and with it as much as convenient of the Lumber most in the way other than the flooring and last Inch Plank sawed I suppose it will be Plank, Scantling & Boards assorted and so wish I wrote you to the same effect by Jerry but have received no answer when it will probably be down please let me hear by Frank in the morning

Yours &c
JG. Blount

July 2^d 1809

Addressed: M^r JH Blount

²There was a Thomas Stewart of Tyrrell County who served in the North Carolina legislature. He was a merchant and a currency speculator. This could be the same man mentioned in the letter. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 35n, 36.

*William Woodfork³ to Josiah Collins*JACKSON COUNTY, TEN. July 10th 1809

Dear Sir I had a power of attorney made to me by Colo. Murfree⁴ by virtue of one you made him, and I went to Overton County in the month of February to reedeem your Land that was Sold for tax 1807 and Could not See the high Sheriff, as he was gone to Kentucky at that time and before I had the opportunity of going again the Colo. died and of course the power Ceased. and I Called on M^r Dickinson,⁵ Col. Murfree's Son in law, who wrote to me to Continue to do the Col's heirs bussiness, as I had been in the habit of doing it. I then asked him what about your Land. he said he knew nothing about it but Stated he would write to you, nominating me as a proper person to transact that business I told him not for fear I would not Redeem it. It was then about the 1st of June and I was then at Nashville and had Some bussiness to do there and Overton County was a Considerable distance off. But as the Col. informed me you was one of his old friends, he and myself was on good terms. I went to Overton County in the last week in June, as the 1st monday in July the time of Redemption was out, and the amount was for Redeeming 2300 acres, \$22.30 3/4 cents the tax for 1808 is due, and I promised to pay it at august Court I gave the Land in for 1809. There never was any money put into my hands, to pay Tax or Redeem the Land you will be good enough to Send on money. I have Some papers in my hands given to me by Murfree, I must inform you that Some of your 5000 acre Tract was Sold for Taxes Several years ago in the (2) Name of a M^r Johnson, 2700 acres By a Conveyance from Gaddy to him the Said Johnson, and the purchasers informs me that Johnsons Deed from

³William Woodfork, who also spelled his last name *Woodfolk*, served as a first major in the Eighteenth Regiment of Tennessee militia in 1807. From 1813 to 1815 he represented Jackson County in the Tennessee General Assembly. There is little doubt that the two spellings, *Woodfork* and *Woodfolk*, belong to the same man. Mary Brown (Daniel) Moore, *Records of Commissions in the Tennessee Militia, 1796-1811* (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1947), 41; Robert M. McBride (ed.), *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly* (Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1975), 818, hereinafter cited as McBride, *Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*. The county tax records, on file in the Tennessee State Archives, also show the different spellings of the name.

⁴Hardy Murfree, considered a hero of the Revolutionary War, was a major and then a lieutenant colonel in the Second Regiment of the North Carolina Continental Line. After the war he became a land speculator in Tennessee, and the town of Murfreesboro in that state is named for him. Second Regiment, Register of the North Carolina Continental Line; Carlton C. Sims, *A History of Rutherford County* (Murfreesboro, Tenn.: n.p., 1947), 27, 119, hereinafter cited as Sims, *Rutherford County*.

⁵David Dickinson, whose estate Grantland (located on Stone's River northwest of Murfreesboro) was well known, married Hardy Murfree's daughter Fanny. Sims, *Rutherford County*, 27, 33, 119.

Gaddy is Registered in Hawkins County this State. And bears date Shortly after the issueing of Gaddy's Grant, they proffer to give up the Land, by paying them Something, the Beginning Corner of the 5000 acres I have not found, but I believe it to be Settled, and you Can give me Such information as you think propper. I have received no directions Since I received the papers, and I will do as you direct me until you Can get an Agent

Yours &c
William Woodfork

Josiah Collins Sen^r ⁶

Addressed: M^r Josiah Collins Sen^r
Edenton N. Carolina
Chowan County

per mail

J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount

[July 19, 1809]

Sir

I dont think I can get Mr Stewarts & Mr Ross['s]⁷ Bills Sawd & Sent down before the latter end next week we have had so much water that I have Just got to Sawing.

I expect there is about 20 M plank & boards 35 M Scantling & 7 or 8 M quartered plank exclusive of what I Shall take to make up Mr Stewarts & Ross['s] Bills

your &c
JH Blount

19th July 1809—

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^{re}
Washington

⁶For Josiah Collins, Sr., see 1805, n. 41.

⁷For Thomas Stewart see 1809, n. 2; for William Ross see 1803, n. 70.

*Joseph Coppinger to John Gray Blount*BALTIMORE 19th October 1809

Sir

Having lately done the needful In order to take out two Patent Rights the one for a simple and cheap construction of a Machine for Making shingles by which it is expected from 15 to 20'000 shingles p^r Day may be produced in the rough by the labour of two Men supposing the blocks to be allready sawd and the wood Pine, cypress or cedar to be operated. The other is a Plaining Mill by means of which and a four ox power it is expected from 15 to 20'000 square feet of plank may be plained p^r Day with the labour of two Men and a boy. One or both these Machines as appendages to a lumber yard might I should suppose be made abundantly productive in your neighbourhood in the supply of the West India Islands with lumber and plained boards

Should you or any of your respectable acquaintance think proper to Purchase the single right of either of these Machines the Cost for each will be \$50 Drawings and references \$4—for your whole state the rate will be \$500 (2) for each Machine And I doubt much If capital can be vested in a more profitable or secure operation. Here it may be proper to remark that the Shingle machine with a Slight variation of its parts can be applied to cutting Nails from sheet Iron. I calculate it may cost in erection about \$300—The plaining Mill without a house \$500 praying you to excuse the freedom of this communication

I remain Sir Very Respectfully—
Your Ob^t Serv^t
Joseph Coppinger

Addressed: John Gray Blunt Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

A Decree Pertaining to Reading Blount's Estate

[October 29, 1809]

Edward R. Byrd
 by his Father and next
 friend Martin R. Byrd⁸
 vs.
 Redding Blounts Adm^r

Decree

This cause coming in to be heard the 29th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nine, exparte, upon the Bill and Report, of the Clerk & Master, before his Honor Chief Justice Taylor,⁹ wherein it charges that Silas Niles left, Edward Racer Byrd, by Will, Five hundred dollars & that Redding Blount administrator of said Silas Niles, admitted the legacy by Letter, and promised payment, and John Gray Blount, administrator of said Redding Blount has not filed any Answer thereto or applied to Council to defend the same, Therefore it is Ordered Adjudged and Decreed that the report of the Clerk & Master be confirmed and that the Deft. pay to the Comp^t according to the above Report with lawful Costs, and it is ordered, adjudged and decreed accordingly—

Decree filed October 29th 1809

John Welet C & ME

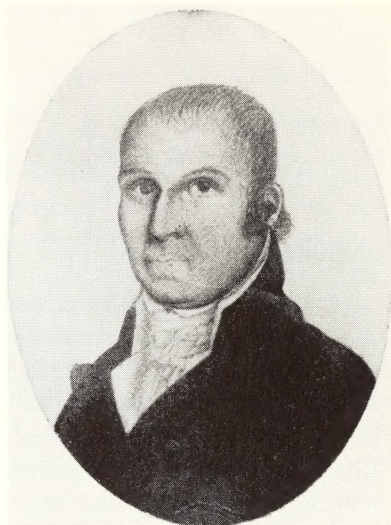
I Hereby Certify the above to be a true copy of a decree filed in the Equity Office of Washington County the 29th Octob^r 1809—

John Welet C & ME. WC

⁸Martin R. Byrd represented Tyrrell County in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1797. Beyond the fact that Edward Byrd was Martin's son, he has not been identified. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 238.

⁹John Lewis Taylor of Fayetteville was a judge of the superior court and chief justice of the state supreme court from 1818 until his death in 1829. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 145n.

Willie Blount (1768-1835), the half-brother of William and John Gray Blount, served as governor of Tennessee during the War of 1812. His attitudes toward the removal of Indians to west of the Mississippi won a sympathetic hearing from Andrew Jackson, who in effect began the process with the subjugation of the Creek Indians during that war. Photograph from the files of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.



*Willie Blount*¹⁰ to Andrew Jackson¹¹

KNOXVILLE Dec^r 28th 1809

Dear Sir,

It would be to the interest of the United States to accede to the proposal of this State respecting an exchange of territory with the Cherokees and Chickasaws agreeably to the plan proposed by me to the legislature on the 16th & 30th Oct^r last, that is, to give them lands west of the Mississippi in exchange for their claim—the time seems to be fast approaching when it will be indispensably necessary for the general government to

¹⁰For Willie Blount see 1803, n. 33. This letter comes from the Andrew Jackson Papers in the Library of Congress. A xerox copy of it is located in the John Gray Blount Papers, North Carolina State Archives. The letter deals with a subject—Indian removal—which is closely associated with the name of Andrew Jackson. What Jackson's thoughts were on this matter in 1809 has not been ascertained, but it is clear that in subsequent years he was in complete sympathy with the views expressed by Willie Blount in this letter. Jackson did more than anyone else to "extinguish" Indian land claims east of the Mississippi River (beginning in 1817) and to send the Indians westward. Among those affected by his commitment to the policy of removal were the Cherokees of North Carolina. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 171; Edward Pessen, *Jacksonian America: Society, Personality, and Politics* (Homewood, Ill.: The Dorsey Press, Revised Edition, 1978), 296-301; Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 332-333.

¹¹Thoroughly disgusted with President Jefferson's handling of the "Burr conspiracy" (especially his defense of General James Wilkinson), Jackson refused to support James Madison, Jefferson's handpicked candidate for president in 1808. Instead he supported James Monroe. Disenchanted with the political situation, Jackson retired to his farm for the next several years, managing its affairs and improving his racing stable. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 158-159.

have Nations of friends settled on that their frontier—I mean by it, that the conduct of the european nations is such, that neutral rights are now and have been long disregarded, and if the United States should in support of their rights have to contend with those Nations, it would be sound policy in us to gain strength in that quarter of our territory, for it is not unreasonable to suppose that a part of foreign policy would be to get possession of that part of the territory of the United States—

The State of Tennessee having an undivided interest in the vacant lands west of the Mississippi held in common with the other States has an undoubted right to propose an exchange of territory situate there for such part of our territory as the Cherokees and Chickasaws claim near us; it would be better for her now to surrender her right to a certain portion of that territory for the accomplishment of so great a good to this State, than hereafter to use it in any other way—we really do own the lands claimed by those Nations within our limits, the uncontroled jurisdiction over it we must sooner or later have and exercise, to exchange with them is an act of liberality on our part—Tennessee in aid of the policy of the United States towards Indians has as yet acquiesced in considering them as tenants at will, but for this state to think of raising a sufficient sum of money by tax on the people to purchase their claim, say at an expense of hundreds (2) of thousands of dollars would be but an idle thought—those Nations of Indians are now friendly to the United States and the liberal policy of the latter towards the former will, and I wish it may preserve the friendship and secure the attachment of those Nations for the United States for ever—but for our benefit and accommodation as a State, I wish them led away from us—I am willing to act justly towards them—it would be promotive of their interest as Nations to settle over the Mississippi—game is there very abundant, the climate friendly to their constitutions, and much of the country is inhabited by people (Indians) whose manners and customs are more assimilated to their's than those of the people where they now live—at present they are surrounded by States thickly populated by people who have different interests—their friendship for the United States being firm (bottomed on their interest) they could assist in protecting the citizens of the general government over there, could longer preserve their national character, more easily and conveniently supply their individual wants, and by their intercourse with the neighbouring Indians could by precept and example civilize them faster and make more favorable impressions on them of the friendship of the United States towards Indians in general than could be effected in any other way with ten fold the expense to the United States who have for many years thought it good policy to cultivate the friendship of Indian tribes & they have done it at very great expense to the government attended with much individual sacrifice—

The best exertions of every citizen of the State should be used in endeavoring to accomplish the views of the State in relation to this exchange of territory—I am convinced yours will not be withheld—this letter contains the outlines of what would probably be a conversation between us if together—should be glad to hear from you occasionally and am

your friend
Willie Blount

Major Gen^l
Andrew Jackson

1810

William Jones to John Gray Blount

BALTIMORE Jan^y 1st 1810

J G Blount Esqe

Esteemed friend

I duly rec^d your fav^r of the 28th Nov^r last; am Sorry the Iron which had been Sent was not assorted to Suit you

As to Castings it has been impossible for me to procure them, No person in this place except W^m Matthews¹ has lately been furnished any considerable quantity, and even he has not had more than half the usual Supply in, We hope to have other arrangements in the Spring

This will I expect be handed you by John Reece,² who has been partly brought up in my family and possesses my Confidence Having letters of Attorney to act for me in the Collection of debts & in purchasing a Car-go for and loading the Schooner Little Will—any Civilities you may find it convenient to shew him, or assistance which you can render him in the objects that may engage his attention while at your place, will be gratefully acknowledged by

Your assured friend

W^m Jones

NB your Son Thomas is personally acquainted with JR—

The acc^t Spoken of is forwarded—See over—

(2) P.S. I have not Seen A C Schnuman to deliver your letter of the 20th Aug^t last, he has not returned, from a voyage to Lisbon undertaken about five months ago

W J

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esq^r

Merchant

Washington

NC

J Reece

¹William Matthews was a prominent citizen of Baltimore. He was named to several Baltimore commissions charged with solving some city problems. *Records of Baltimore*, 115, 116, 138, 139, 205.

²John Reece lived in Baltimore in 1809 and had a house on Howard Street. *Records of Baltimore*, 117-118.

Hugh Jones³ to John Gray Blount

MATTAMU—

Lake View

January 3rd 1810

Dear Sir

I received your letter of the 29th yesterday evening, & regret much that you should have met with any delay in getting your money M^r Biddle⁴ must have misunderstood me, I left a note of \$800 in his hands with a request to pay to your draught. I saw M^r Neal at the Castle, he mentioned that you had empowered him to receive your money, & I told him then the money would not be due when he got there. The 10th of January the note is payable, so that you may draw at sight. The sum you paid Jar-row appears by his receipt (which I enclose you to be \$34. Our wheat fell short 37 bushels. The quantity of wheat you had on board was, as M^r Hollowel⁵ wrote to me 434 bushels. When in Philadelphia I was much indisposed & requested W^m Biddle to make a statement of the account, & I had such an entire reliance upon his accuracy that I never even examined it, but I now see the error in the Weight. I send you Biddles statement. The error in the Weight is the only one—You will however at present if you please draw at the rate of 89 cents p^r bushel the ballance I will pay you the first time I see you. Your Wheat 434 bushels at 89 Cts I believe, amounts to \$386^{''}26 Cts to which add \$34. the amount is \$420^{''}26 Cts (2) You observe your wheat weighd upwards of 60 before it was shipped, & therefore it must have held out; but if you will recollect it was on board a leaky vessel upwards of 40 days, so much injured by fly & weavel you will not be surprised that it fell short. Enclosed you will receive a blank paper with my name signed to it you can fill it up in form of letter or bill as best suits you—I remain

Your ser^t

Hugh Jones

³This was probably Dr. Hugh Jones of Craven County. He married Ann Marie Guion in that county in 1804. Marriage Bond of Hugh Jones and Ann Marie Guion, Craven County Marriage Bonds, August 4, 1804, North Carolina State Archives; Miller, *Recollections*, 49, 56.

⁴William Biddle, a Philadelphia lawyer, was the older brother of the famous Nicholas Biddle. Nicholas Biddle later served as president of the second Bank of the United States during President Andrew Jackson's squabble with that institution in the 1830s. Thomas P. Govan, *Nicholas Biddle: Nationalist and Public Banker, 1786-1844* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1959), 4, 9, 12, 18, hereinafter cited as Govan, *Nicholas Biddle*.

⁵This could be Ira Hollowell. See 1803, n. 1.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr
Washington
North Carolina

[Enclosed account omitted]

Charles Gobert & Co to John Gray Blount

M^r John Gray Blount
Washington, N.C.

AMELIA-ISLAND⁶ January 6th 1810

Sir,

The letter which Captain Thomas Smith⁷ wrote to you by the mail of yesterday, has, we doubt not, reached Washington already & informed you of our being the purchasers of your brig Exchange. Tho' our agreement with that gentleman, respecting that brig, took place on the 30th ultimo, It was, from various circumstances, concluded & signed only yesterday late in the afternoon. It then became impossible to us, from want of time before the closing of the mail of that day, to address to Mess^{rs} J. E. & J. F. Caldwell the circumstantial letter of advice which we wanted should accompany our bill of 7000 D^{rs} on them, in payment of said brig. We have now wrote it & will send it, with this, to the post office of S^t Mary's. We therefore request of you to send our bill on for acceptance as soon as this reaches you, & to empower the gentlemen to whom you will forward it for presentation, to give to Mess^{rs} J. E. & J. F. Caldwell, after our said bill of exchange is honoured, a bill of sale (2) of brig Exchange if those gentlemen wish to receive it themselves at New-York, tho', from other considerations, they may wish that the said bill of sale should be tendered to us here, in which case we are ready to receive it in this place.

We doubt not but Captain Smith will send you by the mail of the 12th instant (by which this will go) a copy of our articles of agreement with

⁶ Amelia Island was a nesting place of pirates and smugglers in East Florida, not far from the Georgia border. Approximately two hundred American "insurgents" aided by American gunboats captured the island in 1812 in an effort to wrest it from Spain. The Madison administration disavowed the whole affair. Bailey, *Diplomatic History*, 166.

⁷ Captain Thomas Smith was a ship captain who sailed for the Blounts over a period of many years. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 8n, 70-71, 73-74, 111-112, 132, 333.

him. they were, at first, seven in number, which we approved of. Your friend M^r Hanson Kelley, then suggested an 8th one, which says—that a letter from you or your agent in New-York, approving or disapproving of our bill of exchange shall be deemed sufficient to confirm or annul the agreement of sale of brig Exchange. We objected at first to that article being inserted, as being inadmissible, but M^r Kelly having assured us of your integrity, we assented to it. We expect, therefore, from your justice & liberality that you will not suffer this clause, subscribed by us, to go further than to insure your just rights & that you will order the bill of sale to be given, as soon as our said bill of exchange is accepted & found good by your correspondent.

We are going to clean the brig's bottom & to put (3) other repairs on her, to make her ready for sea, & put 13000 D^{rs} worth of naval stores & cotton on board of her; we therefore hope to be treated by you in this business as we have a right to expect from the idea which we have been induced to form of your principles, in consequence of the high character which M^r Kelly M^r Smith & others agree to give you.

We are respectfully

Sir

Your very humble Serv^{ts}

Charles Gobert & C^o

our address is

C. G. & C^o

Commission merchants

Amelia island, near

S^t Mary's

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount

Merchant

Washington (N. Carolina)

George Gordon to John Gray Blount

MURFREESBOROUGH January 26th 1810

M^r John G. Blount

Dear Sir

Agreeably to your request I have purchased One thousand Bushels White Peas for you, and request you will Send a Vessel to this place to receive them as soon as possible—I should prefer a Bill on M^r Theo.

Armistead of Norfolk for the peas—I do not recollect that you mentioned at what time the Bill would be payable, but I presume at Sight—

Believing that my title to the lands, late the property of M^r Hare, is unquestionable, and having nothing that I can employ my hands to advantage about, I have concluded to send them on the land to make Turpentine—I shall want a few bushels of white peas and Some Corn, perhaps 10 or 12 barrells, for them which I beg you will furnish them with—As they will have no place to put that quantity in, if you would furnish them with a few bushels at a time as they may want it, you would very much oblige me—I shall be at your place in the Spring and will pay you the money—

I suppose my hands will make 300 bls. Turpentine, perhaps more, would you like to engage it, to be delivered on the river near Capt. W^m M^c Keel's? My Waggon goes out with M^r Joel Baker (who is to make my Barrells) and the hands, and Will return immediately—You will please write me by the Boy, whom I have directed to Call for the Letter, and inform me when I may expect your Vessel for the Peas, and whether you can furnish M^r Baker & the Boys with the Corn & peas, also whether you are disposed to purchase the Turpentine & at what price—

W^m H Murfree Esquire being (2) Connected with me in Business, you will please draw the Bill for the peas payable to Murfree & Gordon

I am very respectfully

Dear Sir

Your Ob^t Ser^t

Geo Gordon

N.B. M^r Baker will want a Grind Stone, will you furnish him with one?—

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Washington
Beaufort County

Thomas H. Blount^a to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON Feby. 4th 1810

Hon'd papa,

M^r Macon⁹ yesterday handed me yours inclosing a [illegible] of exchange on London, which will not sell at this place—have therefore,

^aThomas Harvey Blount was one of the sons of John Gray and Mary Harvey Blount. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 107n.

⁹For Nathaniel Macon see 1803, n. 91.

written [manuscript torn] to Baltimore to know if they will answer them—I brought in with me a [illegible] for W. [illegible] who ordered me not to sell unless at *par*, they are over the U. States 3 pCent below *par*, and the merchants say as soon as Macon's bill¹⁰ passes the senate, they will be still lower the cause must be obvious; too much of our produce in their ports—

Since my last I have again conversed with Gallatin on the subject of your claim, who after examination says no return has ever been made to the office of the business, that if the Vessell has been condimned the officers at Orleans have retained the proceeds, the Capture was illegal, & of course condemnation, that the Captured have not applied to the U. S. for remuneration because they have violated the Embargo & [illegible] He has since my communication written to the U.S. Atty. at Orleans to know how the proceeds has been disposed of—He further informed me, that you must state your account with the War Department (that (2) having chartered the Experiment) & substantiate any loss or injury you may have sustained by the proper vouchers, present the same to the War Department, & if allowed to be correct he, (Gallatin) will pay you the Amount direct—This I suppose to be correct as to your sufficient reasons for it, & [manuscript torn] quite disposed to render me any service in his power—

Macon's bill which no doubt you have seen in the Intelligence passed the house of Representatives by a majority of 21 votes & the Senate now have it under consideration—the Commons only amended it by authorising the Pres. to call out the Navy of the U. S. to carry the law into effect—

Genl. Smith¹¹ is the only Senator whom I have heard speak against the bill—it no doubt will pass, but considerable opposition will be made to it—The Vice Pres.¹² who lives in the same house with me, thinks there is

¹⁰Nathaniel Macon's Bill Number 2 was the law that repealed the Non-Intercourse Act during the Napoleonic wars and opened United States trade with all nations. It contained a bargaining provision, however, that offered to suspend trade with Britain if Napoleon would withdraw his Berlin and Milan decrees, which forbade European countries to trade with Great Britain; or, to suspend trade with France if Britain would cancel its orders-in-council, which declared the entire coast of France to be under blockade. Bailey, *Diplomatic History*, 133-135.

¹¹This probably refers to Samuel Smith (1752-1833), a senator from Maryland, who made a long speech in the Senate against easing the nonintercourse policy then in force against Britain and France. Smith was a general in the Maryland militia. *Annals of the Congress*, Eleventh Congress, First and Second Sessions, 1809-1810 (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834-1856), XX, 602-611; *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1720.

¹²The vice-president referred to here was George Clinton (1739-1812) of New York. He had a distinguished career as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, as a multiterm governor of New York, and as vice-president of the United States for two terms. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 754.

no doubt of its passage, tho' few if any entirely approve of it, but they are all anxious to be released from the Non-Intercourse law—

By this bill you can send your Schooner to any place you think proper, bringing home only the produce of the Island or place you send to—If you have not yet seen it, I must refer you to the *Norfolk Herald* of the latter part of Dec^r in which I saw it previous to my departure from Norfolk—

(3) At present Congress, (I mean the house of Representatives) have nothing of consequence before them— [manuscript torn] doubtful how to act, & are in daily expectation [manuscript torn] from Europe; they think they will adjourn [manuscript torn] March but from their dilatory manner of [manuscript torn] they cannot adjourn before June—

Your Schooner having returned I hope [manuscript torn] made a good voyage & that on this the Exchange has been sold & the proceeds [illegible]—

I shall leave this in about ten days for Carolina where on my arrival I hope to find the family in as perfect health as myself—

I remain
your Dutiful Son
Thos. H Blount

Mr. Kennedy¹³ is here considered as a “violent Democrat” & to use the expression of his Colleague Stanly¹⁴ (who is not partial to him) votes with the Dem. “thro' thick & thin”

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Post-Master
Washington N.C.

William Bell¹⁵ to John Gray Blount

BEAUFORT February 21st 1810

Respected Sir

Yours by John Gale came duly to hand which renders me under many Obligatio[ns] to you, for your perticular attention to me, in procuring some part of the freight due me for my part of the Schooner Hannah—

¹³For William Kennedy see 1803, n. 65.

¹⁴For John Stanly see 1803, n. 43.

¹⁵Several William Bells lived in Carteret County during this period. Which one wrote this letter has not been determined.

I have drawn an Order on you in favor of M^r William Ward, necessity Obliges me to do it or I should not have been in so much of a hurry, Times are very dull here nothing a doing which makes me Scratch some times where it don't Itch, what to be at I know not, but still try to keep a good heart, as Pope¹⁶ Said, what ever is, is right from yours most sincerely to serve in What I may

W^m Bell

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Merchant
Washington
N.C.

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE June 14th 1810

D^r Papa

I delayed answering you letter which enclosed the bond on Col^o Glasgow¹⁷ untill this mail with a wish to have it in my power to say what were the prospects of collection. I have seen the Col^o to day & presented him the bond for payment, he did not say when he could pay it but observed that there were some conditions not expressed in the bond but were understood between the parties and not performed by M^r Harris¹⁸ —I shall see him again tomorrow when I shall know more particularly what he will do. Among the number of tracts purchased from O Smith¹⁹ there was one sold for the taxes in Sumner County previous to your purchase (say 1798) and purchased by Rubin Cage who has obtained a cer-

¹⁶Alexander Pope (1688-1744) was the famous English poet best remembered as the chief exponent of the heroic couplet. Clarence L. Barnhart (ed.), *The New Century Handbook of English Literature* (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1956), 888, hereinafter cited as Barnhart, *Handbook of English Literature*.

¹⁷James Glasgow, secretary of state in North Carolina from 1776 to 1796, was a friend and business associate of the Blounts. His involvement in land frauds led to his indictment in 1796. He resigned his office and moved to Tennessee, where he died in 1820. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 101n.

¹⁸For Edward Harris see 1803, n. 11.

¹⁹For Oliver Smith see 1803, n. 34.

tificate on it—If any Papers should be wanting from this country to shew your right of recovery from the Heirs of Smith write me what and they shall be forwarded

Your Ob^t son
JG Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Mail

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE June 27th 1810

D Papa

Col^o Glasgow says he is not prepared to discharge the bond you forwarded on to this country but wishes to know if by paying five hundred dollars some time in the course of the next month he could get an indulgence for the ballance. I told him I had no authority to make him such a promis, but would write to M^r Blackledge to know if he would consent to give him a credit for the ballance holding out to him at the same time that I was directed to commence suit on the bond in case it should not be immediately paid which instructions I felt myself bou[n]d to comply with but would postpone having it done untill within the number of days required for the returning the writ to court—I think it probable from the resources he mentioned that he will be able to raise the money without a suit. in case of failure it is M^r Blackledge's wish that he should [be] sued—I have never received any of the papers which I wrote to you for, or information where they could be had—

Your Obd Son
JG Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Mail

*Samuel Topping to John Gray Blount*PROSPECT MILLS July 1st 1810

Mr John G Blount

Dr Sir

I Recved your letter yesterday that you sent by Mr Balance Stating that you wished to Know the quantity of wheat that I Could Collect by the 20th or last of July—I am very much at a loss to form any Kind of an opinion at preasant what I Can Collect for the balance Due the Store by the above time—Until I go around among those People that is oweing the Store and Know what Quantity they will have to Spare in payment of their Accounts—I will urge them to have their wheat Ready as Soon as possible—I have Once been Disappointed by the People in the Collec-tion of Corn—Tharefore I do not Know how to Calculate on their former promisses When they traded—The wheat is very much hurt on this Side of the lake with the Rust and on the Sound—on this Side of the lake thare was Some that Did not Reap their wheat at all—So much hurt—on the North Side of the lake the Wheat is very Good (2) and on Swan-quarter very good Wheat—Good Wheat may be bought for 1 Dollar per busshel and no less I dont think—Thare is Several that Owes the Store that is good pay. Cant pay no wheat but will pay the Corn as Soon as it Comes of—I am affraid that it will be late in July before the People gets Ready to Clean their wheat—for they will be later than usal hilling their Corn—as the Spring was So Backward—Tharefore it is out of my power to Say what Quantity—or what time the wheat Can be Ready—until I go around and Sea the Customers that owe—and make a memorandum of what they will have Ready—and then I will Write you by the boate or Some other passage as Soon as possible Thare is about a thoussand Dol-lars due the Store on the first Settlement besides Swindells²⁰ account and others—and the trade Since the 1st day of Ap^rl last is not Possted I Sup-pose thare must be 5 or 6 hundred Dollars due Since that time—Your wheat is hurt very much with the Rust Hollowell²¹ Says (3) He Cant form any Kind of an opinion what Quantity of wheat will Be Raised from the plantation it is so hurt The Goods I Recved all Safe by Capt migett²²—the Rum is nearly out—Tobacco gone—the Salt and Sugar Sells Slow and Everything Else Except Rum & tobacco Some Cash Rum & Mo-lasses powder & Shott and Tobacco Would help the Collection of Wheat Very much—I will urge the Collection of Wheat as fast as possible—

²⁰This is probably a reference to Jacob Swindell. See 1805, n. 23.

²¹This was probably Ira Hollowell. See 1803, n. 1.

²²For the Midget family see 1806, n. 2.

there is a Considerable of bees wax might be got by paying half Cash at 3/ per lb—I am yours with much Esteem—

Sam^l Topping—

NB I will thank you to Send me one barrel of good pork I want it for my Father—my father is down hear at this time at Work—and he would thank you to Send him the amount of his account that he owes you

yours S. Topping

Hollowell Requested me to give Gorge one Dollar to base his Expenses and the balance George will Return to you—

It is Reported on this place that if M^r Thomas Blount is Elected a member of Congress that he will Establish a Certain Religion among the people and all Shall be of that Religion and no other—In Haste—

Addressed: M^r John G Blount—

Washington—

By George

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE July 9th 1810

D Papa

I have just got into possession the Grant for the land M^r Harris is to convey to you & send you a copy of the Courses &^c which will enable you to get the deed made—

Grant N^o 452 to Edward Harris as assignee of Robert Staples²³ warrant N^o 3596 for 228 acres lying in Rutherford County in the first district on the east waters of the West fork of Stones River—Beginning at a black Oak marked RW and white Oak on Reading Blounts south boundary line of his service right of 4800 acres and runs south 13 poles to Bryan Smiths²⁴ north east corner and continued with his line south in all 184 poles to two Dogwoods and small Elm on the north bank of a small

²³Robert Staples was a private in the North Carolina Continental Line. He assigned his Tennessee land to Edward Harris. He was first in Doherty's Company, Sixth Regiment, and then in the Fifth Regiment. Sixth Regiment, Register of the North Carolina Continental Line.

²⁴Bryan(t) Smith was a soldier in the North Carolina Continental Line. He enlisted in 1778 and was in Shepherd's Company, Tenth Regiment. Tenth Regiment, Register of the North Carolina Continental Line.

branch William Ponders²⁵ South West corner thence with Ponders line east 158 poles to two Dogwoods and a forked black Oak s^d Ponders corner on John Willises²⁶ line thence with s^d Willises line North 51 poles to a large hickory and Dogwood s^d Willises North West corner thence with his line east 57 poles to a large post Oak and Dogwood thence North 133 poles to two Elms and Dogwood on s^d Blounts line thence with his (2) line West 215 poles to the beginning—Surveyed April 6th 1808—Dated 1st September 1808—

This day was determined the suits between Patton & Ervin²⁷ and the Occupants. The desicion was in favour of P. & E. but by the advice of theire Att^o the Occup^{ts} I believe intend carrying it to the supreme court of the U.S. The reason of the appeal as stated to me by theire Att^o is that the Judge permitted the deed to Allison²⁸ to be read as evidence of tittle when it was not proved by the subscribing witnessess nor acknowledged by the parties who made it—and unless this was done they contend it is of no validity. If this should ultimately prove to be correct I think it will considerably multiply your chances of geting once more into possession of them—Its possible as your acknowledgement has become so necessary that immediate steps will be taken to procure it & it is for this reason that I give you this early information in order that you may be on your guard in case of such an application

your Ob^t son
JG Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Mail

²⁵William Ponder was a soldier in the North Carolina Continental Line. He enlisted for three years in 1777. He was in Williams's Company, Fifth Regiment. Fifth Regiment Register of the North Carolina Continental Line.

²⁶This was probably General John Willis, founder of Lumberton, North Carolina, who was deeply involved with the Blounts in land speculation. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 524-527, 607-608; III, 45n.

²⁷James Patton and Andrew Erwin apparently were land speculators. Tennessee land warrant records show that they procured a Dugald Carmical's 640-acre tract in 1807. Land Warrant 4049, Tennessee State Archives.

²⁸David Allison was a lawyer and friend of the Blounts. He lived in North Carolina and then in Tennessee before going to Philadelphia to sell western lands and becoming involved with James Wilson, Robert Morris, and the Blounts in land speculation. His reckless and questionable practices brought him to ruin in the financial panic of 1797. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, xiii-xiv.

*John Gray Blount to John Wallace*WASHINGTON July 11th 1810John Wallace Esq^rD^r Sir

As we are both advanced in years and have each a Family for which we ought to make some arrangement And as we hold a Property jointly which we may wish to use for that purpose and have a long standing Acc^t which none but ourselves can settle and perhaps even ourselves with some difficulty I have for some time past had it in contemplation to make you the following offer: to wit to draw a Line across the Castle at the East end of the old or large Ware House straight with the end of the House and give you the choice of ends of the Castle & Rock and I have no doubt you will choose the West end which I would prefer by 1000 \$ but as your House is on it shall not object to your taking it. To let Persons be appointed to divide all the other Lands and Property owned by us jointly by reducing the same & drawing Lotts (2) who shall have the Lotts. And appointing a Person to collect all the outstanding Debts & pay all the Debts due and then divide the ballance or pay equally the ballance if the Sums due us will not pay. Say nothing of any acc^t either of us have for anything whatever, as you have a claim for annual wages &c And I have a claim for Negro hire &c and I suppose you have no Account of House expense Acc^t a part of which has from time to time been supplied from the joint Property no doubt, and of course the going into those Acct^s would occasion much difficulty

If you accede to this mode please have a List made of all joint Property and sign it, make to me a Deed to my half the Castle and Rock And appoint the Persons in Writing to [illegible] the other joint Property And this Letter shall oblige me to do the same to you.

The Part of the Town to the time of division to be joint property as well as the profits of the undivided Hands until divided

I hope this offer will be taken in the same frindly disposition in which it is offerd

And am with sincere esteem
your most Obed
JG Blount

Addressed: John Wallace Esq^r
Shell Castle

*John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount*NASHVILLE July 15th 1810

D Papa

I wrote you last mail about the determination of the suits between Patton & Ervin and the occupants who are settled on the lands on the three forks of Duck River. I neglected to keep a copy of it, but knowing the frequent miscarriage of letters have thought proper to forward the substance by this mail—The suits were determined in favour of Patton & Ervin, but by the advice of the Occupant's council they have determined to carry it to the supreme court of the U. S. The reason of the appeal as stated to me by their Att^o is that the Judge of this court permitted the deed to D. Allison to be read as evidence of Patton and Ervin's title without its ever having been proved (he thinks) as the law requires—It was never proved by the subscribing witnesses and proving their handwriting or yours is stated by the Att^o to be insufficient to permit it to be recorded or to secure the title to the present claimants—The Judge here was very far from being positive that it was sufficient, but eventually determined that it might be read (2) I think it probable since your acknowledging it has become so important, that immediate steps will be taken to procure it and that you may be on your guard, I forward you this information—The case will be tried next Feb^r at Washington (Ct^y) and I believe it is their present intention to employ L. Martin²⁹ to attend to it. If you should be of an opinion that the objections made is not merely a quibble you can take such measures as may seem to you best to have the question fairly investigated—I have understood that you never received any value for those lands nor were they disposed of as you contemplated at the time of making the deed; therefore neither justice nor morality would forbid your taking every *legal* method to regain possession.

Your Obed^t Son
JG Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
North-Carolina
Mail

²⁹This reference is almost surely to Luther Martin, an eminent American attorney from Maryland. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787, and, in that capacity, advocated in vain the doctrine of state sovereignty. Drunkenness eventually ruined his career, but he achieved brilliant heights as Justice Samuel Chase's attorney during the latter's impeachment trial in 1805 and as Aaron Burr's lawyer when Burr was tried for treason in 1807. Alfred H. Kelly and Winfred A. Harbison, *The American Constitution: Its Origin and Development* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., Fourth Edition, 1970), 119, 234, 237-239.

William Tatham to John Gray Blount

PORTSMOUTH (OCRACOCK) 28th July
1810

D^r Sir/

I am thus far on my way to Harbour Island; my stay will be short.

The Governor's death³⁰ removes the objections you formerly stated to improvements at Shell Castle; and, if you will let me I have a fair interest, in a way to live by it, you will (no doubt) find your interest in my taking the matter [in] hand: I need not tell you, with more experience in these things than most men.

The first thing to be done is a more compleat Survey & plan of the premises than Price, or any Surveyor in the common way, is capable of making. The Second point, is the *design*, looking forward to future prospects, with a regard to economy in the management of present resources, & their prompt remuneration. The third point is the progressive execution of the design, so that it shall contemplate future certainty, steady income, & little risk.

Last Fall, I explored Mattamuskeet;³¹ & can double your powers and interest there.

We have one difficulty to overcome: *it is to avoid any Jarring between ourselves, on the painful Stab given to my feelings and my prosperity by your Brother Thomas at the City of Washington*: a man for whom my all would have been cheerfully sacrificed, is the last man I can forget for such an undeserved injury; howsoever, my *Christian* principles may forgive him—Nature never intended your interest and mine to Clash; and it is the interest of every one in Carolina that they accord in the Sounds & commercial avenues of Carolina: Let me hear from you speedily, & without reserve: I have much to communicate, & can do you & yours much good.

In haste Yours
Wm Tatham

John Gray Blount Esq^r

The whole of the U. States Naval force were to leave Norfolk about ten days ago: They turn to the North & South, in two divisions, and scour

³⁰ John Wallace died on July 22, 1810, between the time John Gray Blount wrote him on July 11 and the time that Tatham wrote this letter of July 28. Blount's letter of the eleventh must have been prompted by news that his partner was in failing health.

³¹ Lake Mattamuskeet is in central Hyde County. Efforts to drain the shallow lake for farming purposes began as early as 1789. Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*, 269.

the Coast to the extremes of the U. States: I hope they will sink all the Piccaroons!³²—W.T.

Addressed: John Grey Blount Esq^r
 Shell Castle or
 Washington

Care of
 Cap^t d. Wallace

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

[August 6, 1810]

Dear Sir

I rec^d the inclosed this morning from David Ware Merchant of Philadelphia. By the P.S. you will see that a Captain Robert Barry is by this time, or shortly will be with you to bargain for my vessel—The near approach of the election puts it out of my power to be over, & the setting of the Green Court next week & of Wayne the week after renders it extremely probable that I cant come over at all to meet the gentleman who may be coming to see my vessel—As the vessel is known to be in your charge it is pretty certain he will call on you to know my terms of sale I have sent the bearer over express to you with the inclosed to apprise you of the terms he is likely to offer, and to get you to sell her to him provided he will give \$18 p ton for her as she lies with the spars on hand & the payment to be made as the letter proposes, the credit part to be secured to the satisfaction of M^r Ware in Philadelphia unless you are acquainted with the House that employs him or M^r Leroy or M^r Ross in that case you may close the transaction at once & let her be at his risque from the time you bargain—In fact as to the securing the money I wish you to act for me as you would for yourself and as is usual on such occasions—

As to the answer to be given John on the subject of the claim against Glasgow I am disposed to indulge him as he wishes provided John thinks the chance of his complying good—you will therefore write him to that effect or as you think likely to be most for my interest. If the spars and

³²The correct spelling is *picaroon*, a word used to designate a pirate—either a man or a ship. Picaroon was first used for this designation during the seventeenth century. In 1624 Captain John Smith of Jamestown, Virginia, fame seized a “French Piccaroune” and “took from them what hee liked.” *Oxford English Dictionary*, VII, 816, s.v. “Picaroon.”

other work necessary to complete the furnishing (2) of the vessel according to the terms which you see he is authorized to offer will not cost over 80\$, I would not fail in the sale, no nor even if it will require \$100 to complete her according to the terms he is directed to require

I want the bearer to bring my longest X Cut saw the Smallest grindstone and My large Shingle [illegible] as I have some hands getting shingles—Pray hurry him off.

I wish if you bargain that you would be particular that the spars or work necessary be accurately defined, that there may be no misunderstanding with these twistical Philadelphians the Cross trus [?] &c ought not to be included, nor any of the [illegible]

Every thing promises well except the town Election, in which I dont feel much interest as the Repubs run W^m Sheppard³³ an Enemy to the Bank but violent Fed—I wish them success & shall do all I can but we are divided—There will not be much blood shed I hope & believe

Yours truly

W^m Blackledge

Newbern Monday afternoon

Aug^t 6th 1810

If it be possible to fix the Credit at 6 instead of 8 months I should be glad, or even at a shorter period & probably if you seem pritty obstinate ag^t falling, he may to get his terms as to the finishing come to 4 or 6 m^o as to the payment of the other half or at least a fourth of it

W.B.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington

By man
Sam

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE August 12th 1810

D^r Papa

There is no necessity for sending the deed from Jonathan Loomiss³⁴ to this country as with the assistance of your Mem^o I have been enabled to get a copy which answers every purpose—

³³For William Sheppard see 1805, n. 10.

³⁴Dr. Jonathan Loomis served from 1776 to 1782 as a surgeon in the North Carolina Continental Line. He enlisted November 26, 1776, and resigned August 19, 1782. He was in the Eighth Regiment. Eighth Regiment, Register of the North Carolina Continental Line.

I am much at a loss how I shall make euse of those warrants in the name of J & J Bonner³⁵ for your benifit. Alth^o the agreement between Bonner & M^r Harris contains the sweeping clause you have mentioned yet that will not be considered as a legal transfer, and not sufficient to authorise the Grants to issue to you or M^r Harris. In order that this may be done it would be required that the warrants should have been particularly mentioned, such as the number &^c Agreeable to the will of J & J Bonner the transfers were made by theire Ex^{rs} now whether have the Ex^{rs} of an Ex^r the same power the original Ex^r possessed. If so, the Ex^{rs} of Henry Bonner³⁶ & Joseph Bonner (altho sighthed the transfer to E. Harris) could transfer the ballance of the warrants not particularly mentioned by N^o and [manuscript torn] can I could forward to you the duplicate [manuscript torn] (2) my possession—There is also a tract of 1600 acres warrant N^o 287 ass^d of John Allen³⁷ that has been located and surveyed but not granted, and stands in the same situation with your lands in the piney woods that is to say in file N^o 29 for which there was particular provision made by act of Assembly, and if the mode of transfer I have suggested should be found to be sufficient their warrant for this can also be obtained, as I believe there are no other claimants to the land by virtue of this warrant

Please present my love Mama & family
your Ob^d Son
JG Blount

(3) I do not know any way that transfers can now be had unless the surviving executor of James Bonner will make them or unless the heirs of James Bonner would make them. Either would certainly do, but I believe old Wallace Harrison is surviving executor & doubt whether he would. One of the heirs is an infant but if a transfer could be obtained from them, I think it would be sufficient.

E Harris

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Mail

³⁵James and John Bonner were land speculators who procured land warrant number 3010 for 274 acres originally issued to Private Joseph Kelley in 1785. Their heir, and executor of their will, Henry Bonner, later sold the warrant to Edward Harris. Land Warrants 3000, 3010, Tennessee State Archives.

³⁶Henry Bonner, heir of James and John Bonner, represented Beaufort County in the North Carolina Senate from 1799 to 1803. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 239-240, 242, 244, 246.

³⁷Captain John Allen, an officer in the North Carolina Continental Line, received land

*John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount*NASHVILLE Sept^r 1st 1810D^r Papa

I have rec^d yours of July 17th and shall forward to you the papers requested as soon as they can be procured from the different Registers offices—At the request of Col^o Weakley³⁸ I examined the papers in his possession relative to an agreement between him & M^r Harris but made no final settlement with him, in consequence of his claiming one half of a 640 acre warrant which you wrote me M^r Harris s^d he Weakley had agreed to leave entirely out of the settlement as it had been drawn without either of their consents. I offered to furnish another warrant of 640 acres which he might locate on the land the other had been removed from and we would divide the land, He declined doing so, but agreed to take 320 acres of warrant from which I think it not improbable he has already secured the land in his own name and if so I did not consider myself authorised to pay him 320 acres of warrant—He talks strongly of suing for half (2) of whatever land that particular warrant may be located on, unless he is paid a warrant of 320 acres—Besides this warrant above mentioned there will be 160 acres only due Weakley which will come out of the tracts as assignee of Clemant Godfrey³⁹ on M^c Adee [M^c Ador?] creek—The followings a statement of all the warrants put into Weakleys hands & how they have been disposed of—

N ^o 3596	228—Granted to E. Harris
185	228—Transferred to Gab ^l Rowls on acc ^t of Weakley
1123	228— ditto Conrad Coon ditto
3598	274—Granted to E. Harris
3274	640—Drawn by Strother ⁴⁰
2997	274—Granted to E. Harris
3000	274—Redelivered to E. Harris by Weakley
3017	1000—Drawn by Strother & settled for
	<u>3146</u> acres

warrant number 387 for 1,600 acres on December 15, 1783. He assigned the warrant to John Gray Blount. Land Warrant 387, Tennessee State Archives.

³⁸Robert Weakley (1764-1845) was a surveyor, planter, and prominent political figure. He served numerous terms in the Tennessee General Assembly between 1796 and 1825 and was speaker of the Tennessee Senate in the thirteenth and fifteenth assemblies. He also served one term in the United States House of Representatives (1809-1811). McBride, *Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*, 768-770.

³⁹Clement Godfrey, a soldier in the North Carolina Continental Line, was assigned 274 acres of land in Montgomery County, Tennessee. He later sold this patent to Edward Harris. North Carolina Land Grants, Book D-4, p. 312, Tennessee State Archives.

⁴⁰For John Strother see 1804, n. 3.

I wrote you sometime since that Loomisses deed would not be wanting,
and least that letter may have miscarried I mention it again

your Obd^t
JG Blount

[In John Gray Blount's hand]

write John not to settle & examine if Weakly for himself or some other
Person has [illegible] for us And to tender Him the 160 Acres out of the
Godfrey Land

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Mail

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE Sept^r 12th 1810

D^r Papa

I am requested by M^r Rob^t Prince⁴¹ to request you to obtain for him
or rather for Uncle Willie M^{rs} Oliver Smiths certificate that she does not
know where the following discribed tracts of land lie The warrants when
obtained Uncle Willie has sold to Prince and that cannot be done untill
her certificate is had—They are lands purchased by W.B of O. Smith
when he was last in this country—You know the form of the certificate
required as you once sent me one which answered the purpose in a similar
case—

640 acres acres Granted to Nancy Shepherd⁴² N^o 2063 dated 20th May
1793 N^o W^t 1504—

640 acres Granted to Nancy Shepherd by Grant N^o 2065 dated 20th
May 1793 N^o W^t 1494—

⁴¹Robert Prince procured land warrant number 1239, consisting of 274 acres, from Private John Pond. Land Warrant 1239, Tennessee State Archives.

⁴²Nancy Shepherd procured a large number of land warrants in Tennessee—numbers 1476, 1500, 1754, 1765, 1766, 2073, 2086, 2088, 2091, 2093, and 2097, to list a few. The unusual aspect about this name is its feminine connotation, as few women were involved in extensive land speculation. It is possible that this name was a pseudonym for a speculator interested in shielding his true identity. An attempt was made to discover the subsequent disposition of this land, but nothing was found. Land Warrants 1476, 1500, 1754, 1765, 1766, 2073, 2086, 2088, 2091, 2093, 2097, and others, Tennessee State Archives.

I some time since forwarded to you a copy of a Grant to Edward Harris for 228 acres as assⁿ (2) of Robert Staples, since when I have sold the land to Gen^l Joseph Dixon⁴³ at 3\$ p^r Acre and have promised to make him a title on or before the 25th Decm^r next you will pleas forward M^r Harris's deed to you for that land regularly proved as soon as convenient—The law of this state requires it should be proved in open court by two subscribing witnesses—

Your Obd^t son
JG Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Mail

Samuel Topping to John Gray Blount

PROSPECT MILLS November 16th 1810

M^r John G. Blount

D^r Sir

I Send you a List of What is due the Store and what goods is on hand and what the Store has paid Including what the Mill and plantation has had and been paid other people and your own Account altogether makes \$2210⁰⁰/₆₈ I Kept the Account Charged against you for what the mill and plantation had and what has been paid for them But in the new Books I will Keep the Accounts apart So that you Can Sea what Each has had and what has been paid for Each When you Come down—I dont think that I have made any Mistake in the Statement that I Send If there is I Shall find it when I bring all Accounts forward into the new Books—I have got all Hollowells Accounts made out that he has against Swindell and the mill and his own ac^t—I wrote you the 15th Nov by Joseph Maye the am^t of Cash you paid hear—Your goods is wanted hear very Much

⁴³ Joseph Dixon was a land speculator. He was connected with a number of land deals involving North Carolina military warrants. Land Warrants 2593 and 2749, Tennessee State Archives.

altho there is So many on this place—If you have got my Note from M^r Boyd I will thank you to bring it down with you—

I am yours with much Esteem
Sam^l Topping

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount—
Washington

Favoured by
Capt Ashley

Josiah Bradley to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE Nov^r 30th 1810

John G. Blount. Esq^r

Sir—

some days past I had the partition Line taken down for the purpose of pracing it to the old place where it was in Tuck's time, so that there might be a clear passage to the Houses—Joseph express^d a great dissatisfaction that he would not be cramp^d & also and unwillingness to give up the priviledge of ketching water, as the excuse was that the cistern was out of order—but [manuscript torn] the fact is he has considerable in the Houses of one trumpery or other and expects the houses not to be wanted in a short time. that he will have the same use as before I have agreed to let it stand a few days as he sais he wishes to write you—You will please write me the particulars of his agreement & I will try and stick him to it if possible—

There is some stragling Negroes⁴⁴ passing here piloting without branch or responcebilty. Captain Wallace & others are determind to prosecute them, would it not be as well to have branches for [illegible] & [illegible] for fear the masters of those negroes might serve all in the same way, sometimes, some Masters are particular in having pilots with branches—in haste I remain Dear Sir

y^r most Ob^t Hum^l Serv^t
Jos. Bradley

⁴⁴Concern over the activities and economic competiton of black pilots, slave and free, had surfaced as early as 1773 when white watermen expressed their disapproval in a petition to the General Assembly. Jeffrey J. Crow, *The Black Experience in Revolutionary North Carolina* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1977), 32, hereinafter cited as Crow, *Black Experience in Revolutionary North Carolina*.

Addressed: Jno G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

fav^d by—

Thos. B. Wallace

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE December 4th 1810

D^r Papa

Richard⁴⁵ yesterday arrived at this place with the papers relative to the business in Kentuckey, where I entend seting out for tomorrow; though but half the object of my journey can be effected as the laws of that State require that a power of Att^o should be proved by two witnesses. I discover from your letters on the subject that there are some doubts about Gen^l Hopkins relinquishing his claim to the lands purchased by him, and I have considered the procuring his quitclaim a sufficient inducement of itself to undertake the journey, and every exertion shall be made to obtain it—Should an opportunity offer of selling any of the lands, I shall do so and adopt the method pointed out in your letter of instructions to M^r Salter,⁴⁶ though I am unadvised whether you wish me to sell a part without the whole, or what must be the payments; in the latter however I cannot err if I exact the purchase money when the title is made—

I have been at much pains to get M^r Lanier⁴⁷ to take lands for the notes he had in possession, but he has purchased a small piece of land near this place & has no idea that any other part of the country is worth having, and has lately sold (2) the notes to two different men of this neighbourhood. One of the notes with the interest amounting to about \$1600 I have a prospect of geting, as the person who holds it is desirous of purchasing the place where I live. The owner of the other has gone to New Orleans & I had no opportunity of ascertaining whether any thing short of the money would answer his purpose—I intend sending you by some trustey men who will leave this in the course of the next month

⁴⁵This was probably Richard Blount. See 1807, n. 30.

⁴⁶This was possibly Thomas Salter, who procured land warrant number 252 for 274 acres from Private John Stephens, a soldier in the North Carolina Continental Line. Land Warrant 252, Tennessee State Archives.

⁴⁷James Lanier assigned a land warrant for 2,560 acres to John Gray Blount. Land Warrants 475, 1079, 3357, and 3475, Tennessee State Archives.

about \$3000, my boy & papers and perhaps some horses—If such a man cannot be procured on reasonable terms, I shall come myself. But it was my wish & intention to descend the river about the 10th of January to Natchez, take a peep at the Missippee territory, travell over the Red River country and explore the Attacapes.⁴⁸ The latter from the discription I have had of it is the only country which can ever rival Mattamuskeet—From there I shall go to New-Orleans and take a passage for New York if one can be conveniently procured if not to the next port farthest North, and travel home by land—

I am a little apprehensive this circuitous route may not meet your entire approbation, but when last at home I hinted such an intintion and you made no objection—I have long had a desire to see those parts of the continent, I have mentioned and believe so good an opportunity of doing so will never again present itself, and I sincerely wish my availing myself of it may meet your approbation—I should not however leave the country so soon if M^r Strother whos friendship and attention to business can (3) be equaled only by his honesty had not promised me to take on himself the superintendence of your business—

My love to family
Your Obd^t Son
JG Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
Mail N^o Carolina

⁴⁸The Attakapas formed a district within the Louisiana Territory in what is now the southwestern part of Louisiana. It was named for the allegedly cannibalistic Attacapa Indians who once inhabited the area. W. Adolphe Roberts, *Lake Ponchartrain* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1946), 49, 75, 110.

1811

W. S. Biddle to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA Jan. 1, 1811

Sir

Your Letter of the 27 Nov. to my Father M^r Charles Biddle¹ came to my hands. I have seen John Thomas and Reuben Jopham and the amount of the information which I have been able to obtain is: That the property in question is a Farm in Passyunk township a few miles below this City. That it was devised by Andrew Rambo to his Nephew John Lord who died intestate leaving one child a daughter Eleanor who died in her minority. That John Lord had two aunts (Sisters of his Father Theodorus Lord) one of whom had a Son Edward Lord Chick. The other aunt under whom the Toppings claim it is said was never married and consequently that her descendants are illegitimate. In the year 1772 Edward L. Chick recovered the property against a certain Henry Eleves who was in possession by a Judgment in the Supreme Court of this State. It has since passed into other hands by several conveyances. It was not until this day that I could obtain an interview with Reuben Jopham. He has some papers which he will not part with nor show until he is remunerated for the trouble which he says he has had in the business. He estimates his Services at Thirty Dollars and he Says that on receiving that Sum he will deliver the papers to the order of Samuel Topping & exert himself to procure every information that may be wanted. (2) Without satisfactory proof of Pedigree nothing can be done and even with that I am afraid that the Length of Time which has elapsed will be a bar to a recovery.

Under present appearances, I Should not be inclined to undertake the prosecution, of the Claim upon the Terms which you mention.

I take this opportunity to mention that several years ago, I obtained a Judgment in your favour against the Executors of D^r John Hall upon a promissory note. No assets however have yet come to their hand.

I am very respy
yr ob^t Serv^t
W S Biddle

¹Charles Biddle, the father of William, Nicholas, and Charles Biddle, Jr., was a successful Philadelphia merchant. Govan, *Nicholas Biddle*, 2, 4-5; see also 1810, n. 4.

J. G. Blount Esq.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Washington
North-Carolina

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE January 10th 1811

By the last mail I received yours enclosing the deed from M^r Harris,² also one in which you suggest the expediency of purchasing yarn from the rope-walk at this place—On enquiry I find the establishment is on so small a scale that the supply of rope furnished from it, is not more than sufficient for neighbourhood use; and either from the want of skill or attention that, which is made is not of a quality which would answer for riging—I have no doubt if a quantity could be procured and of a quality which would be considered merchantable in the northern ports, but that it would yeald a handsom profit to the purchaser at the present prices—But the manufactory is yet in its infancy and not carried on with that spirit which alone I should think could render it profitable—

The tract of land M^r Sumner³ mentioned to you as having been sold for the taxes is a 640 acres granted to Jesse Cobb⁴ on Stones River—It was sold for (2) the taxes in 1804 in Rutherford county and in 1803 the dividing line between the counties of Davidson and Rutherford was run, leaving this tract within the limits of Rutherford—The taxes continued to be paid on it in Davidson, and it was not untill the time of redemption had expired that it was Known the land was sold or even liable for the taxes in Rutherford—I was in hopes as I could shew that the State had not been injoured inasmuch as the taxes for the land had been regularly paid (though in a different county) that the sale would be considered illegal—I procured all the necessary evidences and submitted them to Judge White⁵ (previous to his reappointment) who was of opinion that the sale would be considered a valid one—I am in treaty with the purchaser and am in hopes if I do not get an entire relinquishment, to get at

²In all probability this reference is to Edward Harris. See 1803, n. 11.

³This probably refers to Francis Sumner, who served as a private in the North Carolina Continental Line. He assigned his land warrant, number 1097, to Jesse Cobb. Land Warrant 1097, Tennessee State Archives.

⁴Jesse Cobb was a Tennessee land speculator. Land Warrants 1097, 1178, 1234, 1487, 4760, Tennessee State Archives.

⁵For Hugh Lawson White see 1804, n. 7.

least one half of his purchase—As respects the information given of the lands on Blounts creek, there is nothing serious in it—When I first went to survey them lands I found Felty Farmer (who formerly lived near Washington) and severall of his brothers in possession, and from its being a part of the country where the situation of old surveys was little known to the settlers, and civilization and honesty not in fashion among them, they pretended to claim by right of occupancy a right they appeared so determined to defend that *forcable attempts* were made to prevent my surveying them; I however compleated the (3) surveying and have since had them established as the law of this State directs, and to prevent all further disputes gave them the alternative of leasing or moving off the land; they chose the former & are now settled as tennants

In my last I wrote you I should go to Kentuckey in a few days. Previous to my seting out I was informed Gen^l Hopkins⁶ was not at home. I am since informed he is now attending the Legislature and shall go immediately to Frankfort to see him—M^r P. Henderson who formerly lived at the castle will return to Carolina in March I have therefore declined sending in untill he goes. From my acquaintance with him I think the additional security of the property which will be entrusted to his charge more than equivelent to the delay

I have never completely ascertained what were the views of the company who have sent M^r M^cLemore⁷ to N^o Ca^r But if my memory serves me right I wrote you near twelve months since that he would be sent there by W. P. Anderson⁸ (and perhaps others) to take such copys from the Secretarys office as would furnish the best information on the subject of the lands entered on the Missispee waters & to ascertain the present claimants of those lands. and if they could be purchased on good terms to do so, if not to undertake the surveying & establishment of them on shares—This I am confident forms part of their plans (4) and I believe they have none that are not connected with this particular business

My love to the Family
Your Obd^t Son
JG Blount

⁶Samuel Hopkins (1753-1819) was a Revolutionary War officer, judge, and legislator in Kentucky. He was a major general in the War of 1812 and a Republican member of the Thirteenth Congress (1813-1815). His country estate, Spring Garden, was near Henderson, Kentucky. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1140.

⁷This was probably John C. McLemore, a very active speculator in Tennessee lands. Land Warrants 230, 396, 796, 1360, 2431, 3171, 3178, 3189, 3328, 4625, 5146, 5204, 5282, and others, Tennessee State Archives.

⁸For W. P. Anderson see 1806, n. 7.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
 Washington
 N^o Carolina

Mail

*W. Barrow to Willie Blount*⁹

NASHVILLE 14th February 1811

Dear Sir,

I mentioned to you when I saw you last in this place that I expected to purchase a note on JG Blount & Reading Blount, from W^m Lanier, the note I have Since purchased The amount of Prin^{ble} and interest to the present date is \$1630 I have Conversed with M^r John G Blount, here, this day, and have offered to take from him \$1000, Cash, And 1200 acres of land warrants, Giving him in thirty Dollars of the Am^t, and warrants Can actually be bought in any quantities here @37 per Cent—Therefore I conceive I have made him a Generous offer—The other note Lanier has Sold to C. Stump, and (2) he has put into the hands of John Dickinson¹⁰ for Collection—Such steps for me to take would be Disagreeable—I hope Therefore that you will make some arrangement, through M^r John G Blount here, or otherwise to Discharge this note, as necesaty Compells me to, ask of you to raise the amount for me, Some way or other—you will do me a singular pleasure to write me as early as Convenient, on the Subject and let me Know what Can be done

I am your most Ob^t
 & Very Hum^e Svt
 W. Barrow

Addressed: His Excellency
 Willie Blount
 Knoxville

Mail

⁹For Willie Blount see 1803, n. 33.

¹⁰John Dickinson, born in Charleston, New Hampshire, in 1781, moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and became a wealthy lawyer. He died of tuberculosis in 1815. Will T. Hale and Dixon L. Merritt, *A History of Tennessee and Tennesseans* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 8 volumes, 1913), III, 725, 837, hereinafter cited as Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*.

Solomon M. Joseph to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE March 7 1811

Jn^o G. Blount Esq^r

Sir/

It seems the avericious, and over grasping woaman, who is daily pleading distress and poverty, and has Lonely distress'd situations, will not leave me undisturbed, on this small piece of ground which I hold at so high a price, her conduct appears like she'd wish to have the rent, and the place, She being without the least feeling of gratitude to any person but herself, I have no doubt She must disturb you among the rest, as I discover by a Letter you sent down respecting a Small piece of ground I have for a garden; during M^r Wallaces¹¹ life time he promised me the use of that piece of Garden rent free, which I told you and M^{rs} Wallace when you were here; which I can avow to you to be true, when I agreed with you for the present year, you never mention'd any thing respecting the Garden, I took it for granted it was no object to you, as it is impossible to live here without Vegetables, It is only a power which M^{rs} Wallace wishes to monopolys, that others may humble to her for a few Greens, it is well Known that She has as much Garden (2) Joining that of mine Exclusive of a piece as large as the whole of the pieces together, and does not improve that which she has, It is only Envy at seeing that little improved by M^{rs} Joseph, which is her only amusement in this little piece of garden, neither M^{rs} Wallace or M^r Bradey¹² mention'd any thing about the garden untill a few days past, which was after M^{rs} Joseph has been at the trouble of Sewing Seed, and having the whole in order for the Spring and Summer, Yesterday M^{rs} Wallace call'd on M^{rs} Joseph and told her She could not think of her having the garden without pay as she was a poor woamen and had a Large family to Support, if She had the garden She could raise and Sell out of it, which would help in maintaining of her, why has She not done it before, and why does She not commence with what She has to cultivate, it is only Envy, there is no doubt M^{rs} Wallace has, and Knows how to take care of herself without the production of the Garden,

However I do not wish to trouble you with any thing more of the Kind, this is the first, I only wish to have one Land lord and under your

¹¹For John Wallace see 1803, n. 12.

¹²This was probably Josiah Bradley, who is listed in the 1820 census of Carteret County. His family consisted of four males and two females. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Carteret County, 16. See Josiah Bradley to John Gray Blount, November 30, 1810, above.

direction, do not let me be under the controul & Whims of any other person, as I have but a few months to occupy this place, and am wishfull to live in peace that Short time, I am willing to Satisfy you M^r Blount in (3) any thing that is within reason, I shall be up at Washington in a Short time, I Expect you have not been inform'd that no repairs has been made Excepting a little plastering round one Chimeny, and that only Two or three weeks past, I remain with respect—

y^r Ob^t Ser^t
S. M. Joseph

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

Willie Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE March 18th 1811

Dear Sir,

I received the inclosed the other day—money cannot be raised here—nothing will command it I wrote M^r Barrow I would do every thing in my power and make your answer known to him—A gentleman directly from Nashville says John is well & will start down the river in a few days for home by way of Orleans &^c—that will be a pleasing and useful trip to him—it will give him an idea of the Western & South western world and a very just idea—He is a young man of great observation and fond of travel—we hope to have a trade with Mobile before long tho' the Spaniard hold the fort there yet—things appear quiet in Florida—I have been laboring this winter to convince the general government that it would be politic in the government to settle the Southern tribes of Indians on the west of the Mississippi¹³ the better to guard against foreigners tampering with them—that it would be better for the Indians to go there as here their game is in a great measure gone & there it is plenty—that it would cost the U.S. less to enforce their policy towards them there and more effectually than it ever can be enforced here—that the situation of this State and the vast property of individuals held in their present hunting grounds here renders it indispensibly necessary to remove them away out

¹³For an earlier reference by Willie Blount to Indian removal see his letter to Andrew Jackson on December 28, 1809. As governor of Tennessee from 1809 to 1815, Willie Blount took a keen interest in the territories occupied by Indians and the Spanish to the south and west. *DAB*, II, 391.

of the way of national conflicting claims and also out of the way of individual claims—I have addressed some long letters to our members in Congress on that subject copies of which I will send you when I have more time than now—to get those people settled west of Mississippi may be a hard job to effect but it is so important that it should be done that I could work chearfully to effect it—present me affectionately to the family & to friends say how do and am

with affectionate gratitude
yours
Willie Blount

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Post Master
Washington
Beaufort County
North Carolina

J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount

[May 15, 1811]

Mr Blount

have sent all W^m Orrs¹⁴ Bill 1632 feet flooring plank 2421 feet weather-boarding 344 feet Scantling 2000 feet Refuse boards all this at bottom have sent 2560 feet inch boards 160 feet small Scantling; there was 198 feet Genl Blounts¹⁵ flooring plank left through a mistake which I have sent this only makes the quantity I wrote
15th May 1811—

yr &c
J. H. Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

¹⁴For William Orr see 1803, n. 82.

¹⁵This probably refers to Thomas Blount, who, along with his brother Reading, was called General Blount. Reading Blount had died October 13, 1807, however. See 1803, n. 25; 1807, n. 10.

J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount

[May 18, 1811]

Mr Blount

have sent in the flatt 2736 feet flooring plank for Gen^l Blount all of it is not clear of sap & knots for it was impossible I could git it so; have only a few barrels turpentine down for my horse wont work att all now.

monday morning
18th May 1811

yr &c
J. H. Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

Robert Love¹⁶ to John Gray Blount

WAYNESVILLE 20th of May 1811

Sir)

Your Letter to me with one to Mr John Strother¹⁷ I have Rec^d and the one for Mr Strother I will forward to him by the Mail from Asheville; as respects the Suit Shuler v^s Stiles on which I mentioned to you in my Letter, that Judge Henderson¹⁸ had carried a question up to the Supreme Court whether any Entry west of pigion river could be Legall untill the Line was run; this I find on Examination was not correct, my informant had not understood the Judge as he himself had Varied the question

¹⁶Robert Love was a prominent citizen of Buncombe and Haywood counties. A veteran of the Revolutionary War, he became a land surveyor, a member of the North Carolina Senate, and he founded Waynesville (named for his friend General Anthony Wayne) in Haywood County. John Preston Arthur, *Western North Carolina: A History, 1730-1913* (Raleigh: Edward Buncombe Chapter of the DAR, Asheville, 1914), 124-127, hereinafter cited as Arthur, *Western North Carolina*; F. A. Sondley, *A History of Buncombe County, North Carolina* (Asheville: Advocate Printing Company, 2 volumes, 1930), I, 487, 491, 493, 625, 649, 667, 801, hereinafter cited as Sondley, *Buncombe County*.

¹⁷For John Strother see 1804, n. 3.

¹⁸Since this letter refers back to earlier land dealings, the reference is probably to Judge Richard Henderson, who, in 1763, along with eight other private citizens, bought a large tract of land in Kentucky and middle Tennessee from the Indians. The purchase was repudiated by North Carolina and Virginia, both of which claimed the territories for themselves. The land transaction was declared valid, however, by United States commissioners who ran new boundaries after the Treaty of Hopewell was signed in 1785 between the Indians and the United States. The Treaty of Hopewell restored Cherokee lands, claimed by white settlers, to the control of the Indians. Arthur, *Western North Carolina*, 85.



Robert Love (1760-1845), founder of Waynesville, North Carolina, acted as John Gray Blount's land agent in the mountain counties for many years. Photograph from W. Clark Medford, *The Early History of Haywood County* (Waynesville, N.C.: Privately printed, 1961), facing p. 65; reproduced with permission.

when he reduced the Same to writing, The Question as it is carried up merely concerns the Lands between the lines run by Pickins,¹⁹ & Meigs.²⁰ the first comformable to Gov^r Blounts Treaty²¹ & the other in consequence of the Treaty held at Tellico²² in the year 1798—in this case it will not affect any of the lands now held by Strother as I Expected therefore you may inform M^r Harris that he not pay any attention to the Suit I have wrote the same to M^r Henderson²³—I am glad that the Busi-

¹⁹ General Andrew Pickens of South Carolina, a Revolutionary War hero, was one of the United States commissioners who ran the boundaries between white and Indian lands after the Treaty of Hopewell. Arthur, *Western North Carolina*, 85.

²⁰ Return Jonathan Meigs was commissioned in 1802 by Secretary of War Henry Dearborn to oversee the running of a boundary in western North Carolina between the Cherokees and white settlers in accordance with earlier treaties made between the Cherokees and the United States government. Arthur, *Western North Carolina*, 51-54.

²¹ This is a reference to the Treaty of Holston, made in 1791 between William Blount, then governor of the Southwest Territory, and the Cherokees. Blount, interested in opening western lands to speculators, drove a hard bargain, forcing the Indians to cede most of eastern and middle Tennessee. Masterson, *William Blount*, 203-207.

²² The Treaty of Tellico Block House was concluded in September, 1798, between the Cherokees and delegates representing both the United States government and the state of Tennessee. It provided for more land cessions by the Indians. Masterson, *William Blount*, 336-339.

²³ This was probably Judge Richard Henderson's heir, Judge Leonard Henderson (1772-1833), or Archibald Henderson (1768-1822), both of whom were lawyers. *DAB*, VIII, 523-524, 529.

ness as respects Ragsdales²⁴ Heirs are about being Settled—the Bills Drawn by Gov^r Blount on David Allison²⁵ which you Stipulated with me to account for if the men return'd to you, I have put into John Strothers hands to Convey to you, thinking it the Safest Conveyance, but if that mode is not agreeable to you I will bring them on this winter and make a finall Settlement, please write to me on the Subject; the sale of Land are in those two Counties (Buncombe & Haywood) Extremely Low & dull

I am Sir your Ob^t Serv^t
R^o Love

John G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Post Master Washington N^o Carolina
Beaufort County

Asheville
May 25

Reading Blount²⁶ Estate Paper

WASHINGTON June 8th 1811

M^{rs} Blount

Bal of John E. Young—

To	3 Cotton Handkf	5/6	1.65.
"	2 yrs Tape	1/6	".30.
"	11 yrs Gingham	5/	5.50.
"	1 ¼ ". Dimity	5/	".62 ½.
"	2 oz Cotton Wire Thread	5/	1. "
"	3 Cotton Handkf	5/6	1.65.
"	2 Balls Cotton	1/6	".30.
			<hr/> <hr/>
			\$11.02 ½.

²⁴Gabriel Ragsdale was a land surveyor and a Blount agent. He also served in the North Carolina House of Commons for several terms. Shortly before his death he had a mental breakdown. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 86n, 127-129.

²⁵For David Allison see 1870, n. 28.

²⁶For Reading Blount see 1803, n. 25.

(2) Estate of RS Blount
 with
 J E Young
 Bill
 b^r
 ent^d being
 enclued in another
 Acc^t

William Woodfork²⁷ to Josiah Collins

August the 26 day 1811 JACKSON COUNTY
 STATE OF TENNESSEE—

D^r Sir I have rote to you and gets no anser and noss not the reason of it perhaps you have not got my Leteress. I must inform you that the money you sente me has not met with the Expence of your Land I have called on the administrator of Col Murfrees Estat for the mony you state he had r^d of you but He would not pay me any but said it was just to [illegible] If I had got it would have hope me for the tax in overton County is very high it is 37 ½ Cents pr hundred for the Corte hous Is bilt by a tax on the County and I have had to attende at Nashville in the month of June 1810 to prevent the drawing of 2750 acres of yor Land warent for they had perchased at sheriffs sale and it was sold in the name of Johnston one of the clamants has got considerable improvements on the Land as it joined him or clashed with his Land and if they could draw the warrent they would be safe I heer inclosed one of ther advertisements this Land was sold in the year 1805 I believe I hope you will send me money to pay the Expenc as I have had to advance the mony and if it was convenint for you to git an agent in the county that the Land Lies in as I have to goe the distance of about 45 or 50 [miles?] to overton Cort hous but I will still attend

turn over—

(2) to your Land if you will send me mony untill you can send and get some good man in the same county where the Land Lies for it will be more convenient if it was in the County that I live in it would be more convenient—

²⁷For William Woodfork see 1809, n. 3.

I am Sir your humble servant and well wisher &c

Wm Woodfork

Mr J——Collins

Addressed: Josiah Collins
N. Carolina Edentown
Chowan County

Robert Love to John Gray Blount

WAYNESVILLE 2nd of Sep^t 1811

Sir)

enclosed is a Copy of a 640 acre & 25 acre Tract of Land in your Name on the head of Richland Creek²⁸ of Elk River; this Tract of 665 Acres has been offered to me by Mr John Strother, for one & a half Dollar p^r acre; I went on and Viewed the Land and think it not worth so much but as, the Situation of this Land Measureably answers my intention—to wit) to make a Stock farm, I had come to a resolution of giving One Dollar & 25 Cents p^r.acre altho, it appears to be a Larger price than the inhabitants in the neighbourhood think it is actually worth. it Lyes so in the hills, the Survey might have been worth the one & a half Dollar p^r acre what Mr Strother Stated if it had been run advantageously, that is if it had been run agreeable to the dotted lines insstead of the Black lines the way that it is actually run, & other Small Surveys made on the Land it had Left out; the arrangement with Mr Strother and myself are thus that I am to have the Land at all Events but he wish'd me to make my proposals in a Letter to you, which is as above Stated, that I was willing to give one Dollar & 25 Cents p^r acre or otherwise I would take it at the Valluation of any two disinterested men—it is possible that Mr Strother may see the Land himself whilst he is out on this tour having never Seen it after he Located it; but he says he had been inform'd by two or three persons that the Land was not as he Expected at the time he Located it being much Narrower between the hills than he thought it was; these de-

²⁸ Richland Creek is in the Pigeon River country of Buncombe and Haywood counties and eventually feeds into Pigeon River. McCutchens Trace appears to have been a path or road in the same general area. Sondley, *Buncombe County*, II, 794; Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*, 412.

ceptions frequently takes place in Caney Countrys and Esspecially in the Summer Season when the Trees are full Leaf'd. I am making preparations to Send Some of my people out to it this fall, so as to make Corn on it the Next Season, that I may Get my (2) Cattle there early the Next Summer, Should M^r Strother See it on his tour he will write to you his Opinion which I urged him much to do 5,000\$ worth of Land are Conveyed to the heirs of Ragsdale & the Ballance with this Tract we are to buy off when I go out again myself in the winter, M^r Strother having business Leading him to Kentucky & doth not Expect to return untill about December, be so good as to write to me the result of your Opinion as early as Convenient—

as respects your Business in the Country I am not at present able to give a detail'd account off; altho M^r Strother has requested me to do so; the Sales previous to my agency I Know but Little about. & untill I can procure a Statement from the Registers Books (and that cannot be fully depended on) I could do no more than merely State what Sales I had made which I Expect will be Triffling in comparison of what has been before that time Sold

the amount of the Land which I returned the last year for Taxation I think is something over 70,000m acres and when I entered on the agency of the Business it amountd to I think 135,000m acres but by an arrangement with a Certain C. Whitson (with the approbation of M^r Strother) 40,000m acres was returned for Taxation in his name that is 20,000m in each of the Counties, of Such of the Craggy mountains as never in any human probability could be Sold and has gone to the State 20,000m acres more of the Same description I have Sold to a Speculating person for a reduced price & whether any thing will ever be had remains uncertain, and a Vast deal of what is Still on (3) hands Never can be Sold Not for a Cent an acre, in fact the Scarcity money & the opening to the westward²⁹ has measurably put a Stop to the Sale of Land in this Country especially Such as yours [illegible] which is Now of a Very inferior quality & has been much Cull'd the Taxes have been high on such a Body of useless Land & without you have some View of foreign Sales it is my opinion it would be prudent to Get Clear of at the least 50,000 acres more on any terms that would Save the Taxes. I think the Taxes within the three last years has been between 600 & 800\$ which together with a train of Law

²⁹ The reference here is probably to both the Louisiana Purchase and the liberalization of federal land policy by the Harrison Land Act of 1800 and the Land Act of 1804. The latter act made it possible for a person to buy as little as 160 acres at \$1.64 per acre, if he paid cash. Credit on the purchase of 160 acres was available, but the minimum price per acre for land bought on credit was \$2.00. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 132-133, 461-462.

suits which have been continually on hand have taken all the money I have been able to Collect on Sales and more too—

I am with due respect Your Ob^t Serv^t
R^o Love

John G Blount Esq^r

[Enclosure omitted]

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Town of Washington PM
N^o Carolina

J. H. Blount to John Gray Blount

[December 18, 1811]

Mr Blount

please send by Jerry 5 or 6 bushells salt we are entirely without Iron if anything should brake which is very often the case

yr &c
J. H. Blount

18th Dec^r 1811

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr

1812

J. B. Borland to John Gray Blount

BOSTON Jan^y 7th 1812

John Gray Blount Esq

Dear Sir

Your esteem'd favor of 28th Nov. advising of having shipt sundry Articles p the Sch^r Jane is received— but this vessel has not yet arrived—No opportunity before the present has offered for shipping the Glass which have now sent p Sch^r Nicholls as p Bill lading inclosed

5 Boxes 10 by 12 Window Glass each	
[illegible] 100 feet-500 feet at 12\$	60
Truckage 25 cts—Wharfage 20 cts	.45
Commissions at 2 ½ p Cent	<u>1.50</u>
	61.95

I hope this Glass will suit you as it comes very much lower than the English—

Fustic has declined & is now nominally 25\$ but not in demand—I was not able to barter it for Salt as you requested (2) Salt is worth from 3 ¼\$ to 3 ½\$ per Cadiz at St Abes &c Bonavista is a little cheaper—

Corn is scarce little having yet come on from the Southward—such as in good order for shipping would bring 90 cent Tar is scarce & worth 3 ¼\$ at this time Pitch 3 ½ to 3 ¾\$—Turp soft 2 ¾\$ Rozin 2 ¾ to 3\$—Spt Turp 35 Cts Tobacco dull 3 [illegible] 4 ½ \$ as for quality Cotton 10 to 12 cts—Rice 4 ½ \$—

I am Sir very resp^y
Your humble Serv^t
J. B. Borland

Addressed: John Gray Blount
Washington
North Carolina

SHIPPED in good Order and well conditioned, by J. B. Borland in and upon the Schooner called the Nicholls whereof is Master, for this present voyage, Isiah Rich—now in the Harbour of Boston—and bound for Washington To say, Five Boxes Window Glass being marked and numbered as in the margin, and are to be delivered in like good order and well conditioned, at the aforesaid Port of Washington NC (the danger of

the Seas only excepted) unto John Gray Blount Esq or to his Assigns, he or they paying freight for the said Goods—

Eighty three Cents for the five Boxes with—no—Primage and Average. In witness whereof, the Master of the said Schooner hath affirmed to three Bills of Lading of this Tenor and Date; one of which being accomplished, the other two to stand void.

Dated in Boston Jan^y 7th 1811.

Isaiah Rich

William Blackledge¹ to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON CITY Feb^y 2^d 1812

Dear Sir/

Your brother² since I wrote you yesterday has had a more severe fever than since he was attacked—at 10 in the morning when I left him for the Capitol he appeared to be evidently on the mend—on my return at 4 PM I found him very ill—instantly sent for the physician, who proposed to call in an assistant—Dotor Worthington³ was called & their joint advice pursued—a tremendous blister was applied between the shoulders calaplasters to his feet & by 9 he appeared to mend from this & the medicine given to open his pores & bowels; but at about 2 A.M. I was so alarmed that I sent for his Doctor, who found it necessary to begin to give wine and whsy & other more stimulating drinks than theretofore—at 5 we dressed his blister found it had performed its office pretty well—he had got into a persperation his pulse amended, but had not well recovered reason—at ½ past 5 I went to bed, rose at 10 & had the pleasure to find him returned to his senses for the first time in 5 days—I think however he will probably have (2) another [illegible] of the fever—at 1 PM I write this he is enjoying a little repose

yours truly
W^m Blackledge

¹For William Blackledge see 1803, n. 40.

²This refers to Thomas Blount. See 1807, n. 10.

³Dr. Charles Worthington, who lived in Georgetown, was a well-known physician and socialite. He advocated a strong standing army in the United States. Gaillard Hunt (ed.), *The First Forty Years of Washington Society in the Family Letters of Margaret Bayard Smith* (1906; reprint ed., New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., 1965), 106; Anne H. Wharton, *Social Life in the Early Republic* (Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott Co., 1902), 87, 150, hereinafter cited as Wharton, *Social Life in the Early Republic*.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
 Washington
 N^o Carolina

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON CITY Saturday 8th Feb^y 1812

Dear Sir)

Your brother Contrary to the expectation of his physicians held out till half past 8 oClock last night when he expired, in defiance of every exertion that could be made to preserve. So far as consolation can be afforded to his affected relations, from a knowledge that the tenderest most friendly, & assiduous attentions have been paid him from the moment of his confinement, by not only his distressed & affectionate wife, the members from the State generally, & other members of his acquaintance, but by all his respectable acquaintance of this City & Georgetown, his most assuredly have reason to feel Consoled. M^{rs} Madison,⁴ M^{rs} Curtis, M^r & M^{rs} Duval,⁵ M^r & M^{rs} Threlkeld, M^r & M^{rs} Vanness,⁶ Doctor Easter—of this place have acted the part of friends indeed—But of M^r Shmallie of Richmond I cannot say enough, in fact had all the relatives he had been present, more could not have been done to alleviate his as well as his ladies distresses than has been done. M^r Threlkeld three days ago addressed me a note, requesting should he die that his body should be deposited in his family vault in Georgetown & that his Lady should, remove to his house, & tarry till her (2) departure. M^r & M^{rs} Duval about the same time requested that I would remove M^{rs} Blount to their house—Her mind would be Consoled when in a situation, which it unfortunately is not—She has rested none I learn all night— & I very much fear the consequences upon her. I shall use my influence with her to have his remains deposited in the piece of Ground set a part in the city bury-

⁴This was Dolley Madison (1772-1849), a native of Guilford County, North Carolina, and wife of President James Madison. *Who Was Who in America: Historical Volume, 1607-1896* (Chicago: A. N. Marquis Co., Revised Edition, 1967), 399, hereinafter cited as *Who Was Who*.

⁵This probably refers to Gabriel Duvall and his wife. He was a Maryland politician and judge who had served one term in the United States House of Representatives in the 1790s. On February 3, 1812, he took his seat as an associate justice in the United States Supreme Court. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 891.

⁶General John Peter Van Ness (1770-1846) had been a member of the United States House of Representatives from New York and a general of militia. Later he was an alderman and the mayor of Washington, D.C. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1852.

ing ground for members of Congress, as is usual, & where a handsome monument or rather marble inclosure with appropriate descriptions of the person is erected over the grave, by the public—I have summoned the members from the State to his lodgings to arrange the order of his funeral—With sentiments of sincere condolance I remain, your distressed & affectionate friend

W^m Blackledge

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
 Washington
 N^o Carolina

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON CITY Feb^y 10th 1812

Dear Sir)

To the Intelligence of this day I must refer you for an account of the procession & respectful ceremonies observed in the interment of your late respected & beloved brother. The House having adjourned over from Friday to monday, I informed the Speaker M^r Clay⁷ of the unfortunate event early as possible, who on consulting with M^r Macon⁸ & other old and experienced members of the course proper to be taken, who advised that an informal meeting of the House should be called at 12 OClock, when almost every member attended. Never did I witness in the Countenances of men so striking an evidence of sorrow for an event of the kind. The few words uttered by the Speaker announcing the occasion of their being convened drew tears from the eyes of a great many. Every thing necessary was immediately done by the house unanimously, & so large a procession has not been Witnessed in this City on any occasion of the kind. I had made arrangements with M^r John A Shmallie (the particular friend of your brother, & who had together with me attended on him through the whole of his illness) to remove M^{rs} Blount

⁷This was Henry Clay (1777-1852), the famous political figure from Kentucky. He was born and educated in Virginia, but he began his law practice in Lexington, Kentucky. He served in the Kentucky legislature and both houses of Congress. He was Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1811 to 1814. In 1825 he was appointed secretary of state by President John Quincy Adams. Several times a candidate for president of the United States and longtime member of the Senate, he ranks among the most distinguished statesmen in American history. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 749.

⁸For Nathaniel Macon see 1803, n. 91.

from the house of Oneale⁹ where they had boarded to General Van Ness's as early as possible after the Corps[e] should get out of sight, and on my return from the grave found that M^{rs} Madison had as soon as the procession passed the Presidents gone in her Carriage to Oneales & that M^r Shmallie had in her Carriage taken M^{rs} Blount to M^r Van Ness's, where she at this time is & will remain, for a few days longer (2) when she will be obliged to go to M^r Threlkelds to avoid giving offence, if the State of her health will purmit which is doubtful. Having been herself sick when her husband was taken down & been much wearied by her anxieties & indefatigable attention to him, she was in bad condition to undergo the shock occasioned by his death—But for the assistance of M^{rs} Curtis I do not believe we could have managed to save her. For three days & nights M^{rs} Blount got no sleep & during the whole time M^{rs} C. staid by her assisted a part of the time by M^{rs} Mitchell¹⁰ of New York & M^{rs} General Mason¹¹ M^{rs} Van Ness M^{rs} Duval M^{rs} Threlkeld M^{rs} Madison & others—M^{rs} B. yesterday morning got a little repose & on last evening appeared to be some what composed, & I have hopes that by the time one of your sons or some other person gets here will be able to travel. It should not be delayed longer than can be avoided as the horses & Rochester are on an expence of \$12 pweek, though I shall endeavor if possible to arrange this on better terms. Your brother expressed in his illness an apprehension that Oneal would extort more than his just due, & I am sorry to find his fears were too well founded, as by his Bill which I got from him yesterday he gives Credit for only \$200 paid him & charges I am Confident more than y^r brother ever paid by \$10 p week in regular charges, & then leave to the generosity of his friends to make a suitable allowance for extra's occasioned by his illness &c—Of his attention to your brother in his illness no Complaint Can be made—The ballance due by his Acc^t rendered is (3) \$379.50—besides this there are the Doctors Bills, which will no doubt be heavy & perhaps \$150 of other Charges so that the ballance of his pay & milage about \$540 will ha[r]dly be sufficient to get him away as he had not much money by

⁹This refers to O'Neale's Tavern, a favorite gathering place of congressmen and their wives. Some government officials lived there while in Washington. This is where Andrew Jackson met Peggy O'Neale Eaton. She became an object of scandal during his administration because of her background. Peggy, whose father owned the tavern, played on Jackson's knee during her childhood. Claude G. Bowers, *The Party Battles of the Jackson Period* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1928), 117-118.

¹⁰This was probably the wife of Samuel Latham Mitchell (1764-1831). Mitchell represented New York in Congress from December, 1810, to March, 1813. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1422.

¹¹The reference seems to be to the wife of General John Mason. The Masons lived in Georgetown and also had a home on an island in the Potomac River. They were prominent Washingtonians. Wharton, *Social Life in the Early Republic*, 226.

him, the amount I cant name but not over from \$50- to 100 dollars—I mention this for your government should it reach you before you start any one for her—But at the same time will state that if there be much inconvenience in raising money to send on dont wait on that Acc^t & the good M^r Shmallie has offered as much as \$300 in needed, & I can spare as much as a hundred & perhaps more—

I am Sir as usual yours
W^m Blackledge

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

J. B. Borland to John Gray Blount

BOSTON Feb^y 17th 1812

Mr. John G Blount

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure of advising you that the Schooner Jane arrived on Friday last after a most distressing passag and after losing her deck load—Your Naval Stores are not yet landed, as soon as they are and can be sold will write you again

Corn is in demand and worth 90 cents per such as is in good order—Tar is extremely scarce & worth 3 ½\$—at this moment it would bring over as there is in fact none here worth naming Rozin dull 3\$—Pitch 3 ½\$—Turp 3\$ soft Tobacco very dull nominally about 4\$ Rice 4 ¾\$ quick—Cotten very dull 10 to 12 cts Staves in no demand Pipe 45\$ Hhd 26 to 27—[illegible]Spirits Turp scarce 35 cents—Varnish 20 to 25 cts

I am very resp^y yours &c
J. B. Borland

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq
Merchant
Washington
North Carolina

Thomas H. Blount¹² to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON Feby. 20 1812

Hon'd Papa,

I did not arrive here 'till Yesterday owing to the uncommon badness of the roads—& fear it will be some time before they are better—I presume you have been informed of the death of my uncle which happened on the 7th Inst. and my aunt who has been *very ill*, has some what recovered tho' yesterday was the first day she has been able to sit up out of her bed—she is however somewhat more composed & probably will soon recover in some degree her health, & consequently her spirits—The roads & her health will detain me here much longer than we expected at my departure, & also the lameness of one of the horses will compel me to purchase a horse as I very much fear those she now has would never be able to get us home—She resides at the home of Gen^l Van Ness where (2) I am happy to say she is treated as a Sister, as in fact she is by all hers, & my Uncles acquaintances which are numerous—she informs me she will return to Washington with me as she can no longer reside in Tarb^o—Inform Mama that her fears as to my health were groundless as I have never been better than since my departure, & hope the family's are as good—

Yours affectionately
Thos. H Blount

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N.C^a

*Willie Blount¹³ to John Gray Blount*KNOXVILLE Feb^y 21st 1812

Dear Sir,

It has fallen to your lot and mine to survive the death of our most tenderly beloved brother Thomas—you know my feelings by your own—A

¹²For Thomas Harvey Blount see Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 107n.

¹³For Willie Blount see 1803, n. 33.

letter from M^r Grundy¹⁴ of the 8th Instant rec^d by last mail gave me the unwelcome information—I have of this date written my sister that the only relief to my feelings would be to go to Washington and see her safe home, and that even that relief is denied me by my obligation to be here in order to attend to my official duties—I have also written to Blackledge that you and he would take measures for her safe return home—I had no information of his illness until I was informed of his death—I had heard he was unwell but had not an idea of the shocking result of his severe indisposition—remember me affectionately to my sister and family and am with grateful affection

Your brother
Willie Blount

John Gray Blount Esquire

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Post Master
Washington
North Carolina

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON CITY Feb^y 23^d 1812

Dear Sir)

Yours of the 10th is to hand but your son Thomas H. & M^r Worthington were here several days ahead of it. Had I been less attentive to your brother I should have felt myself not only ungrateful for the innumerable acts of friendship experienced [manuscript torn] by myself & my family from him & his family, but should have furnished evidence of my own unworthiness of the many singular acts of kindness & attention received from yourself & your immediate family, and that I was not entitled to the distinguished attention with which I had been always treated by the General himself. In the approbation of those whose good opinion is worth of enjoying I have the most ample reward. I am sorry to hear by your son as well as from your letter that you have had a sickly winter, but am in hopes your family is not to experience any further fatal effects from it. And while the Subject is on my mind do tell [your wife?] I am

¹⁴Felix Grundy (1777-1840) began his political career in Kentucky, but he moved to Tennessee and became a prominent politician there. He served in both houses of Congress, and, as a representative in the Twelfth Congress, he became a leader of the War Hawks, young national leaders agitating for war against Great Britain. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1040.

some thing of a *quack* as well as a nurse, and that from my acquaintance with herself & her family as well as from an experimental knowledge of the effect of spiting, upon persons addicted to a pain in the breast, that I am convinced the practice of cleaning the teeth with snuff is extremely injurious to her health, & if not gradually deserted from I fear will effect her lungs dangerously and that in no great while (2) It is a habit which is hard to break like tobacco chewing, but it may as I have found by experiment be broken, and in this manner put into a particular box all the snuff to be used in the day, & use it as usual the first day. the next day put less use it just as often but not quite so long at a time, & so go on abating a little at a time each day, till the quantity used will be so small as scarcely to be tasted—then get green dogwood sticks to make brushes of without tobacco at all, & swallow the saliva caused by cleaning after spiting not more than twice or three times at each cleaning Then in one month or less time she may break a habit which if persevered in will unquestionably much enfeeble if not destroy her constitution. Had not your late good brother when I had the influenza at this place 5 years ago recommended me to a physician Doctor Weames who in hearty the above way advised me to break off the use of Tobacco, I am convinced I should not have lived 6 months. Cleaning the teeth with Snuff has precisely the same effects as chewing Tobacco, as the signs in certain houses about our Lots where the brushes are used fully prove. As this advice is well intended you will not mention it unless you think it may be useful—

Thomas tells me you have or Mr Rodman¹⁵ has excellent green Coffee for sale at \$12½ p CW^t—Now as I am about removing my family to the University where it may be difficult to make the remittances at times of this article I wish to lay in a stock for 3 or 4 years supply at once, & have inclosed you a \$50 bill which I will thank you to apply in the way most to my interest in this article, I say in the way most to my interest because Thomas said, there was some which would answer very well at rather a lower price. I will therefore leave it to your Judgment to apply it as you may think (3) best. And if you think it would be an article worth trading in that is which you could make money on in the event of war¹⁶

¹⁵In 1811 William Wanton Rodman, a practicing lawyer in New York City, moved to Washington, North Carolina, where he married John Gray Blount's daughter Polly Ann in the same year. Lemmon, *Pettigrew Papers*, xvii-xviii, 440-441; *North Carolina Reports*, Volume 116 (Raleigh: Commercial Printing Company, State Printers, 1922), 631.

¹⁶Because of the War Hawks in Congress there was much discussion in Washington during the closing months of 1811 about the probability of war with Great Britain. The British orders-in-council, which had imposed a paper blockade on all ports from which the British flag was excluded, had resulted in the seizure of American ships and cargoes by the British for several years. Blackledge seems to have thought in February, 1812 (just four months before war would be declared on Great Britain by the United States), that the orders-in-council might be repealed but that war was a clear possibility. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 135, 140-141.

coming on, you may apply the proceeds of the inclosed check in the same way, so as to enable me from the profits on my Coffee to pay a part of the expence of my sugar. My own opinion is that it must be a good speculation even if the Orders in Counsel should be repealed, & therefore if good Coffee can be had at as low a price as \$12 ½ p CW^t lay the bill & the check both out in it. The resolutions of the Merchants of Seven [manuscript torn] the effects of the Orders in Counsel so forcibly that I cannot for [manuscript torn] closing them to you by this days mail. Should you purchase any Coffee for me have it put in barrels, advise my friend John F. Smith of it that he may send a Cart over for what it will carry as early as possible inasmuch as I have already orderd off a part of my goods for the University and they may send a barrel of it up in a waggon which will carry some of my other things, & moreover I suspect my family may be wanting Coffee by this time—If you should not have it in your power to purchase for me, you will please endorse the check & forward that with the inclosed Bill to M^r Smith to be applied as I shall direct— As Thomas will no doubt write you I shall say nothing further as to M^{rs} Blount but that she is recovering [manuscript torn] rode out twice though she is yet very feeble—

yours truly
W^m Blackledge

(4) for the money & Check to J F Smith by John Clark the 10^h March
[No address]

Josiah Bradley to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE February 26th 1812

Jno G. Blount Esq^r

Sir—

A few days past I was inform^d that M^r W^m Jolston had writs out for M^{rs} Wallace on account of Perry & Angis, piloting, for motives which I can not account for, as he has had no dealings with the Castle or any person inhabitant there for many years, or a dispute to my knowledge & I can assign no other reason than that of [manuscript torn] in trying to get Vessel's to pilot himself, if you think best, you can get their branc[h]es which will do away all dispute, as I think there can be no more risk than

at present, as there appears nothing but Enmity existing between them that follow the Lightering & piloting Business here—

I am respectfully your most Ob^t
Hum^e Serv—
Jos Bradley

Addressed: Jno G. Blount Esq^r
Merchant
Washington

Politeness
Cap' Perry

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON CITY March 18th 1812

Dear Sir)

I sincerely rejoice to hear that you have hopes of the recovery of your lady, whose ill health I had heard of from your Son when he was here. And congratulate you at the same time on the evidence you have no doubt since rec^d that you were deceived in the energy of the 12th Congress, God forbid they should prove to be the 2^d edition of the 10th—

Henry's disclosures¹⁷ I hope will be of some service in giving additional energy to Congress as a body, while I cannot but regret that the feds are according to custom endeavoring to weaken the force which this additional evidence of panic faith in the British government ought to [manuscript torn] upon the people. They are endeavoring now [to] raise a suspicion that the handwriting of Liverpool & others are a forgery, & to bring our own government into Contempt & discredit by alledging that they have given \$50,000 for the forged discovery—whether this or any other sum was given (2) I know not but this I know that under the exist-

¹⁷John Henry, a British agent, toured New England early in 1812, searching for people who opposed President Madison's policies and favored secession. When Henry made his report to British officials, they refused to pay him the bonus he expected. In revenge he had himself introduced around Washington by a man calling himself the "Count de Crillon" and sold his report to Madison for \$50,000. The report proved only that a British spy had been at work in the United States. Madison tried to use the report to fire up Congress for war, but the New England Federalists continued to resent his policies. "Crillon" was eventually exposed as a petty embezzler whose real name was Soubiran. Smelser, *Democratic Republic*, 202.

ing state of our affairs with that nation the disclosure was worth twice that Sum if the facts disclosed were true, that they are genuine there is no doubt as things will ultimately prove—The Committee of foreign relations at the instance of Mr Randolph¹⁸ have examined a Spanish Count named Crelon who it was known had kept company with Henry at this place—It confirms the truth of Henrys facts rather than otherwise—I suspect an Embargo for 30, 60, or 90 days will be proposed in the Course of a fortnight if not sooner—this is preparatory to War—Almost all the officers for the 25 M regulars are appointed—from your district I have not yet heard of a recommendation for Captain & but one Gen^l. present me very respectfully to your lady & all the family

yours in haste

W^m Blackledge

P.S. Mr^s Blount is pretty well recoverd I saw her last (3) evening at Mr Van Ness's

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Henry I. Toole¹⁹ to John Gray Blount

6th April 1812

Dear Sir

I was desired by W^m Blackledge Esq some weeks ago to name to him some persons who would be willing and fitted to take the command of a company of Infantry in the army about to be raised—I was informed by him at the same time that you had been addressed on the same subject—

I am not acquainted with any Gentleman willing to accept a captaincy for whose conduct I would be responsible; nor do I know of any one who would discharge faithfully and satisfactorily the appointment either of first or second Lieutenant; if proper characters are, however, known to

¹⁸ For John Randolph see 1803, n. 95.

¹⁹ Henry Irwin Toole (1779-1816) was married to William Blount's daughter Anne. Scion of a family of Revolutionary War heroes, Toole served in the state Senate in the first decades of the nineteenth century. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 421n; Alan D. Watson, *Edgecombe County: A Brief History* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1979), 11, 29, hereinafter cited as Watson, *Edgecombe County*.

you, and my concurrence with you in their recommendation should be more satisfactory either to M^r Blackledge or yourself, it will be freely afforded—(2) I feel highly complimented by the opinion you are pleased to express of me in your favor by Nancy,²⁰ and if a longer continuance in public life were at all reconcileable either to my feelings or my interest your wish that I should do so, would certainly afford a sufficient inducement; but I have long since formed the determination to abandon public employment in which I engaged without inclination and almost without motive, and for which my love of ease, and my pursuits generally but illy fitted me.

I have written to M^r Love of Haywood County three or four times on the Subject of the land in that quarter but have rec^d no answer, for which I cannot account; as Gen^l Love to whom I was talking on (3) the subject led me to believe that a Letter to his Brother would meet the earliest attention—

I have some business to the westward of this place, and if I could be assured that I would be able to finish the business in Buncombe on my arrival there I could continue on until I should reach the mountains.

Perhaps a Letter from you to Col^o Love would afford the greatest assurance of my being able to do so; it can be forwarded to me and I will take it on.

I am, like all other lazy people, in great haste, but

very respectfully
& sincerely your friend
& Serv^t

Henry I Toole

I hear that Hall²¹ and Kennedy²² have declared their willingness to go to Congress, but I would, for my own part, prefer to remain unrepresented, if I win as an alternative, compelled to accept of either of those Gentlⁿ I have written to M^r Blackledge to get a Law (4) passed by Congress enabling us to elect a Representative presuming the Fed^e constitution gives the power to that Body by the 4th section of article 1st of that instrument— H I T

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^{re}
Washington
N^o Carolina

²⁰Nancy was the nickname for Anne (or Ann) Blount, Henry Irwin Toole's wife. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 97n.

²¹Thomas H. Hall (1773-1853) of Tarboro served eight terms in the United States House of Representatives (1817-1825, and 1827-1835). From 1835 until his death in 1853 he practiced medicine and engaged in agricultural pursuits in Edgecombe County. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1053.

²²For William Kennedy see 1803, n. 65.

*Thomas Bell to John Gray Blount*MILTON (Mass) April 24th 1812

Sir—

Cap^t Barns of Situate, handed me your letter of Feb^y last.

I wish to know the head which you can raise at your priviledge, & the fall also of the water—I wish also to know, what kind of mills you intend building, whether Flour mills, Corn mills—paper mills, or what may be—

I wish you to be very particular, in your description of the above, priviledge & the Kind of mill or mills you Intend building.

In my next, I shall be able to make proposals of terms. I then knowing your priviledge & the Number of mills you intend to build, If my proposals are acceptable to you, I can come to Washington, the beginning of next winter—

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt—
Thomas Bell

P. S. Direct your letter to Milton (Mass)

Addressed: M^r John G Blount
Washington
North Carolina

*William Blackledge to John Gray Blount*WASHINGTON CITY April 25th 1812

Dear Sir)

I have conversed with M^r Gallatin²³ on the subject of Johns going into the Army, & having the duties of his office performed by a deputy, but he says it cannot be done. Tell Thomas H. I have this day rec^d his covering the other half of the Bills of \$300 & announcing the departure from Washington of William²⁴ for Richmond or this place—I Am glad he is

²³ For Albert Gallatin see 1807, n. 9.

²⁴ For William Augustus Blount see 1808, n. 2. Blount's lifelong desire for military honors was described many years later by an acquaintance who derided "the folly of Gen Wm Augustus Blount who some years ago made a great fool of himself with his Military aspirations." Crabtree and Patton, "*Journal of a Secesh Lady*," 5-6.

coming on, as it will have a good effect upon his application for a commission—We are to have the question of adjournment decided on in the Senate this day—I hope most sincerely it will not pass but have serious fears it will—I have not time to say more at present than to inform you As I think I have already done Thomas that M^{rs} Blount will wait here the arrival of William, & as to the time they will depart it is impossible to say—I am hurrying the Completion of the monument which she wants to have done before she leaves this, but whether she will even then be willing to leave the place it is impossible for (2) me to say—

Yours truly
W^m Blackledge

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Henry I. Toole to John Gray Blount

30th April 1812

Dear Sir,

I wrote to you some time since, and as the mail and private conveyances have since intervened, I think it probable my Letter never reached you.

Among other things I mentioned that I had repeatedly written to Col^o [Love]—on the subject of the lands in the Western part of this State but had been unable to obtain an answer, for which I could not then assign any sufficient reason: since that time however, I have been favored with a reply explanatory of the delay—I presume an extract from the Letter will answer my purpose, and follows—“The Titles are all in the name of M^r_____ and I am bound to know them in no other manner”

I have omitted the names of the agent and ostensible proprietor lest, in case of miscarriage, any injury might result—M^r Parker (2) who will deliver this will afford an opportunity of returning an answer if your leisure will permit.

Present me respectfully to your family and assure yourself of my great respect and regard—

Henry I Toole

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^{re}
Washington
N^o Carolina

W. S. Biddle²⁵ to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a May 5 1812

Sir

Your letter of the 25th ult. was received yesterday and the Bill upon D & M Ray for \$704.67 has been accepted. I proposed to them that they should discount it, but they declined doing it. Your distant residence would prevent a discount at the Bank, I have therefore lodged the bill in bank for collection. I am unable to give you any exact and certain information as to the credit of the acceptors.

M^r Leroy's²⁶ draft upon M^r Bernardou with his acceptance was delivered to M^r Kuhl who held the Second of the Set which you mention—

I am respy
y^r ob^t Serv^t
W S Biddle

J. G. Blount Esq

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON CITY May 7th 1812

Dear Papa

I have been detained here much longer than I expected to have been, when I arrived here, I wrote to my Brother to tell you that my aunt, wished to see the monument finished; which is about to be erected over the grave of my uncle, this is nearly done, but unfortunately, M^r Blackledge, the best of friends is extremely ill, I am now with him and shall pay all possible attention to him, for that purpose I have moved my lodging to the house in which he boards, but for those circumstances I should have been home before this, as I fear you have no person to attend to

²⁵ For William S. Biddle see 1810, n. 4.

²⁶ This was perhaps Lewis LeRoy, a merchant of Washington, North Carolina, and one of the few Roman Catholics living in Beaufort County during this period. Reed, *Beaufort County*, 86, 149.

your business, I cannot say when I shall be at home as it depends on the health of M^r B.—but so soon as he recovers, or rather so soon as he is thought to be out of danger I shall leave this for home, I am confident this will meet your approbation—as his attention to uncle if no other inducement is one sufficient in itself to merit all the service which I can ever render him—M^r Blackledge says he has no doubt, but there will be a *war* as also a number, and in fact all the members I have conversed with on the Subject—he says he has written you that my Brother John cannot under existing circumstances go into the army, but that he has recommended me to the secretary and will, undoubtedly, get a commission—(2) you in my Brothers letter to M^r Blackledge that Gen^l Polk,²⁷ is willing to accept of him as an aid—and as my Brother cannot accept of the offered appointment, Provided it is consistent with your wishes I will tender my services, but as to this you will please do as you think proper—I should however be very glad indeed to be an aid to a Gen^l—who I believe to be brave and ingenious, such I have understood to be the character of Ge^l Polk. I have not received a letter from any one of the family since here I have been. Aunt is now with one of the finest women I ever knew, M^{rs} Van ness and joins with me in love to Yourself and the family—

Your affectionate Son,
Will A. Blount

PS. Since I wrote this M^r Blackledge has taken a Warm Bath and I think he is much better.

W A. B.

Addressed: M^r John G. Blount Sen^r
Washington
N. Carolina

*William Blackledge and William Augustus Blount
to
John Gray Blount*

WASHINGTON CITY May 18th 1812

Dear Sir

I am this day for the first time able to Sit up long enough to dictate a letter in answer to yours as well as your Son Tho^s of the 4th Instant both

²⁷For William Polk see 1805, n. 22.

of which are just at hand, things as they are, at this place it is known that Polke, will only accept conditionally, that is to say, he is willing to be a Gen^l provided he can have his place of Rendezvous at Raleigh, so that he can act as gen^l and Be the President of the Bank at the same time, whether he will ultimately accept unconditionally is yet unknown—before the rec^t of this you will know that your Son William is appointed a first Luitenant at which he is much pleased as he is anxious to serve his country, and before I was taken sick I wrote you that John could not perform the duties of his office, or Rather be Collector and an officer too—hence my exertions to procure an appointment for William—in this state of things how to act I am at a loss, for John to resign his appointment, without a certainty that any vacancy will take place and whether he can fill it, and the uncertainty who will be made collector on his resignation would seem to me improper, being myself unable to wait on the President, or on M^r Gallatin, Than come to this determination. to wait until I am (2) able to see them, in the mean time John should forward this resignation to me that I may use it to the best advantage, but I think he would be rong to resign under present circumstances—I will consult M^r Gallatin and the President about getting Thomas appointed Collector, and seize on any opportunity that may offer in getting a commission for John.

W. Blackledge—
Yours truly—

PS. Dear Papa

You will discover that M^r Blackledge is getting well and myself and aunt shall leave this for home friday morning—I am very sorry to hear of the death of my aunt but I think she is better off. I have to inform you with pleasure that I have been appointed an officer in the army and hope I shall do credit to you, my Country & myself—M^r B. mentions to you the situation of my Brother.

Your affectionate Son
Will A. Blount

Addressed: John G Blount Sen^r Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

*James Taylor*²⁸ to *John Gray Blount*

NEW BERN May 19th 1812

Dear Sir

I have a strong wish for a personal interview with you, or with some one who is confidential with you—the subject you can readily imagine; It is without my power to command that wish—

The torment I have to oppose here, I may with propriety and truth say, I am incompetent to resist—Domestic peace, and pecuniary derangements—a heavy load on my mind, between duty & feeling—all contribute to its exhaustion—do let me see you or some one closely in your confidence—Some arrangements may be made, if speedily concluded no less satisfactory to you than to myself—Your Son William, or Mr Rodman; either would be equally acceptable—pray let me hear from you without delay—

Our Virtuous British Bank²⁹ here has Subscribed 25M to the Loan—Solomon sayeth that there is nothing new under the Sun—I wish he were alive to destroy the Apothegm. this is surely new—A Body of men decidedly opposed to the Administra. and all its measures—but this most important of all—furnishing that Admⁿ with more than a proportion of its funds to carry on a War against their Royal Masters Gang—While their neighbours around are literally drained to the last cent by them—if this is not something new I know not what is—I do not mean the draining part—it is the subscribing part I allude to, and to that alone; respectfully present me to y^r family & assure yourself that I am sincerely y^r ob^t Serv^t

James Taylor

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Merchant
Washington

Mr Goncoke

²⁸For James Taylor see 1805, n. 17. He is often referred to in subsequent letters, sometimes as Cap Taylor or Captain Taylor, and sometimes as just Taylor.

²⁹This probably refers to the Bank of New Bern. That bank subscribed \$25,000 to a federal government loan in 1812, which Taylor evidently thought was hypocritical because the bank's owners opposed the Madison administration and therefore war with Britain. Sarah M. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots: North Carolina and the War of 1812* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973), 25, hereinafter cited as Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*.

*William Blackledge to John Gray Blount*WASHINGTON CITY May 23^d 1812

Dear Sir)

I find by letters this day received from home that on the 10th of this Month my friends at Newbern had made no arrangement for removing my family to Chapel Hill, & fear they will not be gone till after this shall reach you. M^{rs} Blount who is on her way home was so good as to offer to let Rochester go with her carriage & Carry a part of my family should they not be gone before she got home—Now what I wish you to do for me is to write J F. Smith Esquire as soon as M^{rs} Blount arrives, & inform him of her arrival & of the time by which the carriage & horses can be over to go up with my family if they should be needed—He will then notify you whether the family are gone & if they are not I must beg the favor of you to have the carriage & horses sent as early as possible, as the (2) Session begins the 1st of June & I am very anxious the boys should be up as early as possible in the Session—Or if any thing should turn up that M^{rs} Blount Cant spare the Carriage & Horses, inform M^r Smith of it that he may look on—for some other mode of Conveyance & oblige

yours truly
W^m Blackledge

The Hornett³⁰ is arrived, but report says things in France stand, as when Barlow³¹ reached Paris

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r

or

Thomas H Blount
Washington
N^o Carolina

³⁰The *Hornett* was a sixteen-gun sloop under the command of Commodore John Rodgers in the early stages of the War of 1812. It was later commanded by Captain James Lawrence. After numerous engagements the ship was scuttled. Irving Brant, *James Madison, Commander in Chief* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., 1961), 39, 40, 122, 164, 200, 383, hereinafter cited as Brant, *Madison, Commander in Chief*.

³¹Joel Barlow was a land speculator, diplomat, and poet. He wrote *The Columbiad* and *Hasty Pudding*. During the War of 1812 he briefly served as minister to France, until his death during a visit to Poland to confer with Napoleon. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 138, 598.

Ed^m Burr to John Gray Blount

FAIRFIELD 1st June 1812

Dear Sir

I am disappointed & I expect you are by this time your wheel has been done the wood part of it ever since the first of May. I expected to sent it by Cap^t Burton Last Trip but was disappointed about the Iron work. I was at New York 1st of May & engaged the work & it was to be sent to me the next week. it did not come. I was confident I Should have it the next time the boat went but it did not come the man I agreed with would promise to have it ready. & it has been now four times sent for & I have not receiv'd it I mention these circumstances that you may know the cause why it has not been sent to you—I have tryed to find a Millwright to come out with the work in order to set it up for you but I cannot find anyone willing to come to your place in the summer season they are willing to go in the winter but not at the present Season—however I will send you such Instructions as I shall be able to do for the benefit of your Millwright—perhaps he may set it up as well as any one—I shall procure the Iron work & send it out to you as soon as possible. I have engaged a full set of Irons for the Mill—the necessary Geer—the Mill Stones I have not yet engaged I could find none to Suite me & the price is a considerable higher than usual—if you wish I will obtain as good as any I can find & send to you—

with due respect your
Obe^t Serv^t Ed^m Burr

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, Jr.

WASHINGTON CITY June 19th 1812

Dear Sir)

I rec^d from you your letter of the 9th with the inclosures, but as yet have not done any thing with them, expecting from letters rec^d from Cap Taylor, that it is not improbable your father might perhaps wish for

some alteration in his plans as regards you & your brother Thomas—Tho I have had several conversations with M^r Gallatin since I recommended your brother Thomas H. in the event of your going into the army I have not been able to learn whither he has resolved on his appointment. You will see of course that in leaving to my discretion, you have placed me in a very delicate situation I will however do for the best according to the dictates of my Judgment—This is written barely to apprise you that Your letter is received—as time is precious I must Conclude—As to war we now have it open³² and undisguised—All I wait to see whether your father or yourself shall by next mail wish any change, or I can be certain of T. H's appointment, if I find the latter pretty certain I shall not hesitate a moment to hand in your resignation of Collector

yours truly
W^m Blackledge

Addressed: John G. Blount Jun^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Jos: R. Dickinson to Josiah Collins

WINTON July 5th 1812

Dear Sir,

I hasten on my return from Tennessee to inform you that your Lands in that State are reported for the taxes due on them for the year 1811 & that unless measures be taken in time to prevent it, a Sale will be had in November next. I had brought with me a paper which contained the report but cannot now conveniently lay my hand on it; or would enclose it, so that you might thereby be enabled to know what Sum would be necessary to remit to your Friend or Agent in Tennessee. I believe the Sum reported to be due was about \$33—. When my baggage which has not yet arrived comes to hand I shall I think be able to ascertain the exact amount & you shall hear from me on this Subject by the next Mail. From the place of my departure, it was not in my route, (& having the

³²President Madison's war message, which pointed to violations of numerous American rights by the British, was sent to Congress on June 1, 1812. The House of Representatives by a vote of 79-49 approved it on June 4, while the Senate passed it by a vote of 19-13 on June 18. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 141.

care of property which I was conducting to this State it was out of my power) to call & see the Sheriff of Overton County or I would have done so, and paid him the Taxes &c. In (2) a conversation with M^r D. Dickinson³³ of Winson [Wilson?] County Ten. on the Subject of your lands. he promised me that he would pay the taxes too prevent a Sale. But perhaps the thing would be more certain if you could forward the money not to Major Woodfork but to M^r Dickinson. or it would be better to Some Gentleman who might be trusted in Overton—as it would be attended with Some little inconvenience to M. Dickinson perhaps who lives at a distance. I have Said above not to Major Woodfork and this may require Some explanation.

It was represented to me in that Country (Ten) that the Major was not the best Man in the world, & I have too, reasons of my own, which arisse out of a conversation had with him (the Major) on the Subject of your lands, which induces a belief that he would not deem it very criminal to speculate upon you if an oppt^y offers. He however did Say that if he was authorised by you, that he would pay every attention to the business—pay the taxes—endeavor to perfect your titles &c &c. Woodfork informed me that a very extensive (3) clearing had been made on one of the Tracts (I believe the largest) by a Man of the name of Williams³⁴ a great land Jobber in that Country.

A Sale will not increasse the expences & it may be known to you too, that you will have 12 mo: to redeem by paying at the rate of 50pc. Per Ann. on the amo^t of purchasse to the purchasser. I merely mention this to releive any anxiety my communication may have created. If it be your wish to send money, or letters to Ten. an oppt^y that can be relied on will offer from this, Some time in Sept. next—

If this communication shall have a tendency to charge the conduct of any: I hope you will do me the justice to beleive that I have not done so with that view but with a belief alone that it might be usseful and necessary to you.

I am Sir,
y^{rs} respectfully
Jos: R. Dickinson

³³For David Dickinson see 1809, n. 5.

³⁴There were several active speculators with the last name of Williams—Captain Benjamin Williams, Jesse Williams, John Williams, Joseph Williams, and Sampson Williams. This could be a reference to any one of them. It is the editor's belief, however, that the reference is to John Williams of Knoxville, who had been involved in the Transylvania Company's ventures. He became adjutant general of the state militia and fought with Andrew Jackson in the Creek War. Folmsbee and others, *Tennessee*, I, 141, 258, 261. For list of Land Warrants purchased see Land Warrants under each man's name in the Tennessee State Archives.

Jos^h Collins Esq^r

Addressed: Josiah Collins Esqr.
Edenton

W. S. Biddle to John Gray Blount

(Duplicate) PHILAD^a July 7 1812

Sir

I have the pleasure to inform you that D Kings bill upon D & M Ray for 704.67 is paid.

Besides the deduction which you have authorized me to make for myself, I will with your permission retain Thirty dollars for professional services rendered & fees paid by me in the Suit brought for you, several years ago against the Executors of John Hall.³⁵ The balance is subject to your order

I am resp^y
Y^r mo. ob^t Ser^t
W. S. Biddle

J. G. Blount Esq.

Sir

Not having heard from you since the date of the above letter I have sent a duplicate, lest some accident may have prevented your receipt of the original.

I am very resp^y
Y^r ob^t Ser^t
W S Biddle
Phil^a Sep^t 9 1812

J. G. Blount Esq.

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esq
Washington
North-Carolina

³⁵For John Hall see 1803, n. 13.

William Blount to John Gray Blount

[July 20, 1812]

Mr John G Blount

Sir please to Send me one Barrel of your french Brandy if you Can Let me have it for thirteen Shillings per Gallon I can git the Cash for it. you must Let me have it as Low as you can. Send it By Tom, I wish you to Send it at any Rate. also I want you to Send me fifteen pound of flax of a good quality & you will oblige yours &^c

July 20th 1812

William Blount

Addressed: Mr John G Blount
Washington

Nathan Tisdale³⁶ to John Gray Blount

NEWBERN Augst 3^d 1812

D^r Sir — Permit me to solicit your influence & assistance in expediting the march of the Detach'd militia from the Reg^t of Beaufort County—I have [manuscript torn] day by Post address'd a Letter to the Commandant of that Reg^t urging the necessity of the immediate march of the Detachment—I wrote to him several weeks since & have not receiv'd any answer—neither have I heard from that County even by repost.

Your Compliance with this request will O[b]lige one who is ambitious of being ranked among your Friends

Nathan Tisdale

John G. Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

³⁶ Colonel Nathan Tisdale, a watch repairman in New Bern, was described as “a gentleman of great reading and intelligence.” During the War of 1812 he commanded the fort on Beacon’s Island. He had two sons, Joseph and Nathan. Miller, *Recollections*, 39.

*John Devereux DeLacy*³⁷ to *John Gray Blount*

NEW YORK Augst the 20th 1812

John G. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

enclosed you have the sentiments of Mess^{rs} Emmet & Harris³⁸ they agree as you perceive to take the power of atty when necessary so that the sooner you send on M^r Alli[s]on³⁹ the Heir at Law the better as they are afraid of its being delayed so as to be barred by the statute of Limitations in that case made and provided—

I have seen Lohra, and have also been on the search in Phila^a and elsewhere for Trenchard who is somewhere to the southward certainly but I do not now think him so indispensably necessary as I think the business can be unravelled without him, as I hope to find Zollinger and if so I shall most probably get all the papers & books, I will go to Phila^a next week again on the subject, and will leave no means untried to have the business completely developed, altho care and address will be necessary to not only recover the estates but also to preserve to you a precedence as a Creditor by bringing the suit in your name against Allison when he shall be here and getting a Judgment in your favor by confession which will of course secure the whole to you by Allison's instantly returning from (2) you must give me timely notice of the time of his coming that I may meet him here—Indeed but for my want of money to follow the

³⁷ John Devereux DeLacy came to North Carolina from New York in 1813 to establish steamboat companies for Robert Fulton, but he failed. Specifically, Fulton wanted steamship routes established around New Bern, the Little River Inlet, and on the Cape Fear River. DeLacy subscribed to 218 shares in the Neuse River Navigation Company, but, since he made no payments, he was dropped from the list of subscribers. He practiced law in Raleigh for a short time. DeLacy died in New York City in 1837. William Henry Hoyt (ed.), *The Papers of Archibald D. Murphey* (Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission, 2 volumes, 1914), I, 324, hereinafter cited as Hoyt, *Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*; Henry Thomas Shanks (ed.), *The Papers of Willie Mangum* (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 5 volumes, 1950-1956), I, 13, hereinafter cited as Shanks, *Papers of Willie Mangum*; John S. Morgan, *Robert Fulton* (New York: Mason/Charter, 1977), 175, hereinafter cited as Morgan, *Robert Fulton*.

³⁸ Thomas Addis Emmet was a famous New York lawyer associated with Robert Fulton and his business partner Robert R. Livingston. In 1812 Emmet served as attorney general for New York State. Harris must have been Emmet's law partner, but no information has been found concerning him. Henry W. Dickinson, *Robert Fulton, Engineer and Artist: His Life and Works* (London: John Lane, 1913; reprint ed., Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries Press, 1971), 244, 251-253, hereinafter cited as Dickinson, *Robert Fulton*; Morgan, *Robert Fulton*, 178-179, 182, 186, 187, 201-202; Joseph G. E. Hopkins (ed.), *Concise Dictionary of American Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1964), 273, hereinafter cited as Hopkins, *Concise DAB*.

³⁹ For David Allison see 1810, n. 28.

thing up I could soon I think not only discover where those persons are but also get every information necessary but I have neither time nor money to spare in the pursuit, and have at best but an extremely remote and precarious interest in the business however successful it may be—

I beleive with Swift⁴⁰ that there is more roguery than honesty in the world, and I beleive after the following statement you will think so— Counsellor Abner L Duncan,⁴¹ a practitioner of Law in New Orleans & The brother in Law of the late John Nicholson and affidavit man of Wilkinson has for a bona fide consideration to him given by Morehouse & Co. released acquitted and discharged the whole of the Judgment obtained vs Morehouse &c als in New Orleans—as an atty of that Court—tho in no one shape ever employed retained or concerned in or by any person connected therewith there being but myself that could so empower him, and I always and ever had insuperable objections to the having any thing whatsoever to do with him—for many circumstances—induced me to think him not correct at all times—A M^r Rainier of the Atakapas was the agent and a M^r Fromentin⁴² the atty upon record who is now in Philad^a and whom I have seen. He has (3) taken the necessary steps to do away the operation of Duncans—unjustifiable release and I am determined to prosecute him criminally, in which I shall hope for your support—

I have much more to say on these matters generally that has occurred in the course of my researches since I saw you but as the detail would be too voluminous for a letter I shall postpone any farther mention of the subject untill I shall next see you

M^r Rodman's⁴³ machine is ready and I would have been with you but that M^r Mowat refused absolutely having any thing to do on the business alledging that M^r Rodman (to whom I have written on the subject)

⁴⁰Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) was a prominent man of letters and one of the greatest satirists to write in the English language. His satire often focused attention on English and Irish economic, political, and social conditions. Barnhart, *Handbook of English Literature*, 1044-1045.

⁴¹Abner L. Duncan was probably the A. L. Duncan who helped to establish a steam ferry across the Mississippi River at New Orleans in 1820. Harold Sinclair, *The Port of New Orleans* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., 1942), 142.

⁴²In all likelihood this reference is to Eligius Fromentin, a French Catholic priest who fled France during the Reign of Terror. Coming to the United States, he settled in Pennsylvania. Later he moved to Maryland where he studied law. From Maryland he moved to Louisiana and practiced law in New Orleans. Through the influence of his wife's wealthy family, he gained political office and recognition. From 1813 to 1819 he represented Louisiana in the United States Senate, and in 1821 President Monroe appointed him federal judge for West Florida. While serving in the latter capacity, Fromentin ran afoul of Andrew Jackson when Jackson, as governor of Florida, jailed the Spanish ex-governor, José Callava, and Fromentin issued a writ of habeas corpus for Callava's release. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 973; Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 409, 410, 413-414.

⁴³For William W. Rodman see 1812, n. 15.

had not said a word to him relative to it in any shape, indeed it has disappointed me considerably particularly as I am not much known in Baltimore at any rate I will avoid having more to do with M^r Mowat in the money way (at present) than I can avoid for he is said to be a very difficult man to do any thing with, I have not time to give you our politics tho we are chock full of them—the Jersey convention is sitting that of Pennsylvania will sit next week as will that of this state—Clinton⁴⁴ will certainly be Presd^t tho if an opening is given for peace & that M^r Madison makes it he will be re-elected and will stand higher than ever to the Eastward—I beg to hear from you by return of post and am Respectfully Sir your most obed^t Serv^t

John Dev^x DeLacy

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

[September 18, 1812]

Dear Sir)

I received from M^r Brown⁴⁵ the Sum which you requested on the claims against the Cutter, & paid M^r Watson⁴⁶ \$10.75—the ballance \$9.05 are in my hands to pay M^r Thompson in part of the Sum of \$12 which you had rec^d for him. Herewith are Watsons Accounts and receipts. I must now ask the favor of you to fill up the enclosed writ with the names of the Administrators of Frederick Grist or Executors if he left a will, and if he left executors strike out the word Adm^{rs} & insert ex^{rs} in its place & hand it to the sheriff if you please as early as possible so as to have it executed in time to be returned to the Superior Court. It will be

⁴⁴DeWitt Clinton was a famous New York political leader who served as mayor of New York City, as governor of New York, and as a United States senator from New York. In 1812 he ran unsuccessfully against James Madison for the presidency. He was largely responsible for the completion of the Erie Canal. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 688.

⁴⁵This might be a reference to Jeremiah Brown or to Parsons Brown. Together they ran the mercantile firm of J. Brown and Company in New Bern. Miller, *Recollections*, 55.

⁴⁶This was possibly Thomas Watson, who, in conjunction with John I. Pasteur, was editor and proprietor of the *Carolina Sentinel* (New Bern). Miller, *Recollections*, 57.

necessary if you wish to draw the Amount of your bill to send me a check, this I presumed you would know or I should have mentioned it in my former letter—

Yours truly
W^m Blackledge
Newbern Sept^r 18th 1812

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Postmaster
Washington
N^o Carolina

W. S. Biddle to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^A Sept. 28 1812

Sir

I have just received from the office the Enclosed Certificate of the Judgment against Hall's Executors which I transmit agreeably to your request. The Assets here were insufficient to discharge the Judgments which existed against D^r Hall in his life time and which had a preference in payment. My Father has also a Judgment against D^r Hall's Executors for which he has never received a cent, and if any thing can be recovered from lands in Carolina I Should be glad to know it.

The money due upon Ray's bill was collected in my name and passed to my Credit: You will of course draw upon me for the balance. My charge for this business, and that of Bernadou's bill is Fifty five Dollars. For the Suit against Hall's Executors and expenses \$30, leaving your balance \$619.67/00s

If you have any objections however to these charges, you are at liberty to reduce them and draw accordingly.

I am y^r ob^t Sev^t
WS Biddle

M^r Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
North-Carolina

Frederick Brooks⁴⁷ to John Gray Blount

CAMP AT BEAUFORT October
th 14—1812

Mr John G. Blount Sir I have taken the liberty to right to you by the Request of my officers and my men as we under Stand that there is to be two Companies discharged from Beaufort and as we was the only Company of volunteers we dont want to be one of them my men is much Confused a bout it they Say that they want to Stay now for if they ar discharged they will not Ever volunteer a Gain and if they ar not they will volunteer their services to Go Enney whar they may be wanted as Soon as their time is out at Beaufort Dear Sir if you can have Enny influanc by Righting to the Govnor of the State as soon as you can all the thanks will be Given you from the (2) Company and their Respects to you paid hear after as we officers have bin at a Grate ic spenc to a quip our Selves and now to be discharged it will all most a tempt me to Say that I nevr will have nothing more to doe in the army Sir please if you think proper I Shall be Glad—if you will bea So Good to gave Major tisdal a few lines as it is a verrey Crital peos of bisness for me to menchant it to hime as there is three others Cap^t [Gautier]⁴⁸—I have the Right of the Ridgment Cap^t Goldan⁴⁹ & Cap^t Kilpatrick⁵⁰ ar boath willing but their sebaultans ar not which may make Some truble with Major tisdal if it left to him to Say which Shall be a discharged the troops are ginerlay wel we have bin verrey Suckselful for we have not had one death in army (3) Sir I have to informe you that there has a Rived at Beaufort a few days a Go a Brig of two Hundred and fifty tons a prise to the privateer Comit out of Baultomre which his Cargo Contains one Hundred and Ninety Hodgs of Sugar and Sixty Hodgs Moleses and the Ballanc of His Cargo Coffee and CoCo—which Cargo is said to be a worth Seventy thousand dollars—

⁴⁷Frederick Brooks was captain of the Second Company, Second North Carolina Regiment, detached from the Beaufort County militia during the War of 1812. He was supposed to organize a company of sea fencibles and use them if the state came under attack. Sarah M. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 42, 79; *Muster Rolls of the Soldiers of the War of 1812: Detached from the Militia of North Carolina in 1812 and 1814* (Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 1851), 10, hereinafter cited as *Muster Rolls of the War of 1812*.

⁴⁸The only Gautier located was Thomas N. Gautier, who was one of North Carolina's most notable naval officers in the War of 1812. There is little likelihood that the Gautier referred to here was the same man. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 73-74. Also, see 1814, n. 12.

⁴⁹Jacob Galden was captain of the Eleventh Company, Second North Carolina Regiment. His company was detached from the Onslow County militia. *Muster Rolls of the War of 1812*, 12.

⁵⁰Francis Kilpatrick was captain of the Fifth Company, Second North Carolina Regiment. His company was detached from the Lenoir County militia. *Muster Rolls of the War of 1812*, 12.

Sir I Remain yours
with Respect
Frd Brooks

Addressed: M^r John G. Blount Es^d
Beaufort Countey
NC—

William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH October 21st 1812

Dear Papa

I have received your letter and have got the receipt Signed according to request and now enclose it—I have also received my Brothers letter in which he mentioned you wished me to procure 7 Locks, I shall do so and Send them down by the first opportunity; Say to my Brother that I shall attend to the contents of his letter nothing new at this place Col^o White⁵¹ has gone to Columbia S.C. and on his return I think we shall probably know where we Shall be Stationed for the Winter I rather Suppose at Raleigh. please hand M^r Rodman the enclosed letters—My love to all the family—

Your affectionate Son
Will A. Blount

M^r Rodman

I Some time ago wrote you that I should retain the draft forwarded me until I heard from you but for fear you did not get that letter I now forward it you—if any business at this place which I can transact Shall be happy in doing So

look on the other side W A. B.

(2) In a conversation a few days since with M^r Toole⁵² I am of an opinion that he has not possitively determined not to offer as a candidate, He did not say that he would offer, but I think if he was solisited by you, &

⁵¹ Lieutenant Colonel Benajah White of the Eighteenth North Carolina Regiment was supposed to be a recruiting officer, but he failed miserably at the task. Although he later participated in the Creek Indian War, White's ineptitude resulted in his court-martial and dismissal from military service. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 64.

⁵² For Henry Irwin Toole see 1812, n. 19.

William Augustus Blount (1792-1867), John Gray Blount's son, was stationed in South Carolina during the War of 1812 but never saw combat. Even so, he was elected a major general in the North Carolina militia after the war. Portrait by Jacob Marling; photograph from the files of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.



could have any assurances that he would be tolerably supported in Washington & Tyrell counties that he would permit himself to be run— He regrets that the district should be represented either by Kennedy or Hall & his aversion to them I think will eventually determin him to be a candidate

yours &c
JGB

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

John Hill Bryan's Power of Attorney to John Gray Blount

[October 21, 1812]

Know all Men by these presents that I John Hill Bryan of the County of Tatnall and State of Georgia do hereby constitute and appoint John Grey Blount of the County of Beaufort and State of North Carolina my true and lawful Attorney for me and in my name to reclaim the custody

of Nancy and Richard Grist⁵³ Infants to whom I am Guardian; and for that purpose to prosecute all and every lawful means to vacate and repeal the authority by which Reading Grist⁵⁴ pretends to hold the said Infants; and do hereby give and grant upon my said Attorney my full and entire power in and about the premises, and do hereby ratify and confirm all that my said Attorney shall do in and about the same by virtue hereof. In witness of all which I have hereunto set my name and seal this twenty first of October 1812.

John Hill Bryan (seal)

Delivered in
presence of
Thomas Worsley⁵⁵
Nathaniel Locker

John Hill Bryan to John Gray Blount

[October 22, 1812]

John G. Blount Esq^r

Sir, Mr Gaston⁵⁶ thinks it necessary for me to have the Letters of Administrations. will thank you to forward them to me, by the same person who hands you this. I enclose you a power of Attorney which you will please Keep. The Other papers necessary I will endeavour to forward you in time—Misunderstanding the Gentleman who will hand you this

⁵³ Richard Grist represented Beaufort County at the convention held in Fayetteville in November, 1789, to ratify the federal Constitution. These children may have been Richard Grist's. Reed, *Beaufort County*, 124.

⁵⁴ Reading Grist represented Beaufort County in the North Carolina Senate from 1814 to 1818. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 265, 267, 268, 270, 272. Reading Grist is listed in the 1820 census for Beaufort County as the head of a household containing two males and two females. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 18.

⁵⁵ For Thomas Worsley see 1803, n. 23.

⁵⁶ In all probability this was William R. Gaston (1778-1844), an eminent North Carolina jurist in the nineteenth century. He served several terms in the North Carolina House of Commons and as its speaker for one term. He also served terms in the North Carolina Senate. His public career further included a stint in the United States House of Representatives and a judgeship on the North Carolina Supreme Court. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, II, 99-107.

in his returning here will thank you to send the paper by a boy to deliver to my boy on this side the river—

John Hill Bryan

Oct^r 22nd 1812

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a Nov^r the 6th 1812

John G Blount Esq^r

Sir

I have but Just returned from the western part of the state of New York where I had been to see Johnson Hall⁵⁷ and Whitehall,⁵⁸ they are immensely valuable estates indeed probably the most so on the Continent, I have hunted up the titles, proceedings &c &c on the case as far as I could and submitted them to M^r Emmet for his opinion which I have taken in writing, the expence attending my doing this has been enormous considering the little interest I have in it—I have those papers as far as I could procure them with me, The titles were in the hands of old [illegible], and I can neither as yet find them nor the copies nor his letters, but as I am now on the Tract I hope soon to find them all, but if not there are a sufficient number of witnesses to prove his having had them deposited in his hands, with other very valuable papers—I have now to state to you that if any one of your sons or nephews will meet me in Richmond on the 20th or 21st of this month I will communicate M^r Emmets opinion with the other documents to them—I am now on my way to Washington and will go from thence to Richmond I am Respectfully Sir,

Your most obed^t Serv^t
John Dev^x DeLacy

⁵⁷ Johnson Hall, also called Fort Johnson, was originally the home of Sir William Johnson in the Mohawk Valley of New York. It was built in 1749 and was a two-story Georgian stone structure. Writers Program, Works Projects Administration (comp.), *New York: A Guide to the Empire State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1940), 22, 165, 458, 491, 641, hereinafter cited as WPA, *New York*.

⁵⁸ Whitehall, New York, is a town located midway between New York City and Montreal along the Vermont border, just south of Fort Ticonderoga. WPA, *New York*, 84, 540, 623.

P. S. I have a salaray of \$2000 a year from Livingston & Fulton⁵⁹ as their agent

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON CITY Dec^r 6th 1812

Dear Sir)

In my way from Philadelphia I fell in with a gentleman who has graduated at one of the Colleges in New England by the name of Dennison about 26 or 27 years of age who is inquiring for a place in an accademy—His Credentials shew that he has taken his degrees & is of good moral Character—He could doubtless be had on good terms either for an accademy or for a private family—Do say to me as early as possible whether he could be assured of employment in your academy & of what he might expect p^r annum in the employment—Perpetual Motion is discovered I have seen it & do hope nay believe it will be made to answer both for Grist and Saw Mills—yours in haste

W^m Blackledge

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

⁵⁹Robert R. Livingston and Robert Fulton were business partners in a steamship company during this period. Livingston (1746-1813), member of a prominent and wealthy New York family, was a politician whose career began prior to the Revolution. Livingston served in three New York provincial congresses during the Revolution and served two different terms in the Continental Congress. He also served as minister to France from 1801 to 1804, during which time he concluded the Louisiana Purchase. It was in France that he first met Robert Fulton and decided to form a partnership with him. Robert Fulton (1765-1815), born in Pennsylvania, was an artist and engineer who became interested in the steam engine. He spent much of his life promoting steam navigation in the United States and Europe. In 1807, with Livingston's financial support, he successfully demonstrated the practicality of steamships by sailing one on a round-trip voyage between New York City and Albany. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 321, 576; Morgan, *Robert Fulton*, 118-124, 139-142; Dickinson, *Robert Fulton*, 134-136, 149-150, 153, 159, 213-221.

*William Blackledge to John Gray Blount*WASHINGTON CITY Dec^r 9th 1812

Dear Sir)

Tell Sam Young⁶⁰ & Redmond⁶¹ & Howard⁶² & the rest of your noble sound hearted neighbors to Kindle the powder light the lamps string the musick & be merry now without fear of deception as to the truth of the glad tidings I am going to give you—Last night arrived at this place mid-shipman Hamilton⁶³ of the UStates Frigate Cap Decatur with the Colours of the Macedonia⁶⁴ of 38 guns Captured on the 25th October in Latitude 30 longitude 26 W^t of Greenwich after a runing and maneuvering fight of about an hour & a broad side & broad side fight of only 17 Minutes with on[ly] 10 Men Killed and wounded in our ship 107 in the British Both ships are arrived within Mon tog Point—When young Hamilton arrived his father the Sec^y of the Navy his Mother & Sisters with a large portion of the City were at a Ball given by the Citizens to the Officers of the Navy—Imagine to yourself the feelings of the son the father, the Company on the entry of the young man into the Ball room at such a time with such a trophy—I can say no more for want of time & talent to do justice to the scene—

yours

W^m Blackledge

turn over

(2) Should Cap Taylor⁶⁵ be with you tell him Dugomen is unhurt

⁶⁰Sam Young is listed in the 1820 census as head of a household containing four males and three females. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 48.

⁶¹This probably refers to James Redmond II, who is listed in the 1820 census as an unmarried male between the ages of twenty-six and forty-five. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 35.

⁶²This could refer to James Howard or to William Howard, both of Beaufort County. In the 1820 census James was listed as being between twenty-six and forty-five years of age and the head of a household containing children. William, listed as being between sixteen and twenty-six years old, also was married but had no children. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 22, 23.

⁶³Edward Wilkinson Hamilton was the only son of Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton and Mary Wilkinson Hamilton. After serving in the navy in the War of 1812, Edward Hamilton became a doctor, married Elizabeth Isabelle Lynah, and lived for a while near Dorchester, South Carolina. He later moved to Alabama. Samuel G. Stoney (ed.), "Memoirs of Frederick Adolphus Porcher," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XLVI (July, 1945), 140; Webber Genealogical Notes, Webber Collection, 30-4, South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, South Carolina.

⁶⁴The *Macedonian* was a British frigate captured west of the Canary Islands by Captain Stephen Decatur, commander of the frigate *United States*. Brant, *Madison, Commander in Chief*, 123.

⁶⁵For James Taylor see 1812, n. 28.

Addressed: John G. Blount }
 or }
 Tho^s H Blount } Esq^r
 Washington
 North Carolina

Ansell E. Cushman to John Gray Blount

BOSTON December 17th 1812

Sir

I have this day Recieved a letter Bearing Date 28th Oct. 1812 Stating that Perry Wallace my pilot at Ocracoke Could not Recover his wages on account of the informality of the order. I have only to observe that I gave him an order for his pay as a pilot, & Ration as according to the usage of the navy. as I am Removed from the norfolk station I cannot as you suggest apply to mr. Armistead for a more Uniform order than the one that I gave him. should the order he now has not Enable him to Recover his wages—If you will take the trouble to transmit to me a more Uniform method of ascertaining the wages Due him I will Cheerfully give it him

I have the Honour to be Sir
 Your Obedient Humble
 Servant
 Ansell E Cushman
 Master U S. navy yard Charleston

John G Blount Esqr
 Washington N Carolina

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr
 Washington, North Carolina

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

[December 26, 1812]

Dear Sir)

Miss Charlotte Taylor has prospects of getting a good school of the [illegible] here—She will probably call on you at Washington & State her difficulties from the want of money—I sent Cap Taylor \$50 but really

fear he has from necessity spent it—If you can raise for her any how \$150 & take her bill upon me payable at 30 days after sight I will pay the amt of it here or as you may direct—

Yours truly & in haste

W^m Blackledge

Washington Dec^r 26th 1812

As certain what she will need if she says that sum let her have it, but if less will do give what she may state

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r

Washington

N^o Carolina

1813

P. Nesty to John Gray Blount

STRAITS January 19th 1813

Dear Sir

As I desire to be naturalized, I wish you would inform me how to proceed in order to be honoured with the Title of american Citizen.

Fame has brought us the news of Cap^t Decatur¹ having taken an English frigate of superior force, and would to God it was the last of that da—d proud, haughty over bearing, detestable and accursed nation. Excepting those whom may be true wellwishers to America. No doubt there are some individuals of that description in England.

I have mind to go to Charlestown next Summer to try fortune in endeavouring to get employ in some Store, as I flatter myself possessing some abilities, which may admit me in the capacity of a Clerk in a Counting room. Keeping school affords nothing, for I can hardly make the two ends meet.

I shall be in my fortieth year from the 9th of February coming, and it is time to be stale, as old age Steps forward with rapidity.

(2) There is a Sweed Ship in Beaufort. She was bound to Charlestown, but forced to put in this port being distressed.

In wissing you health, you will please to add the sentiments of the greatest esteem with which I qualify myself,

Your Respectful
Servant
P. Nesty
at M^r Jacob Henry
Beaufort

P. S. My respects to M^r Leroy.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N. C.

Fav^d by M^r R. Willis

¹Stephen Decatur (1779-1820) was born in Maryland and reared in Pennsylvania. He distinguished himself as a naval officer in the Tripolitan War and again in the War of 1812. He was probably the most publicized naval hero of the latter war. *DAB*, V, 187-189.

John Owens² to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE N. C. Jan^{ry} 30th 1813

Sir,

Having it in contemplation to take a situation, as a Teacher in some seminary of learning; I send this to you, as an interrogation, whether there be, or whether there be not a man wanted to fill that station in the institution, in which I think it probable you are interested.

If there should or should not be such a person wanted, be pleased to give me the earliest information possible. And likewise a statement of the emoluments which would arise from such a station if there should be one vacant.

I trust, I shall be able to produce a satisfactory recommendation from the Academy of this place.

I have the pleasure to be
sir yours with esteem
John Owens

Addressed: Post master
Washington
N. Carolina

William McPheeters³ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH February 6 1813

Sir

Mr^s McPheeters, by to days Mail informs me that she is in need of some pecuniary supplies—when I left Washington I did not furnish her

²The exact identity of the correspondent named John Owen is unclear. Two men by that name have been located. One was John Owen of Bladen County. He served several terms in the North Carolina legislature, was governor of the state in 1828 and 1829, and was a delegate to the state's Constitutional Convention of 1835. He was well known for his strong interest in education. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 161, 262, 264, 265, 274, 276, 288, 817. Another John Owen was listed in the 1820 census as a resident of Cumberland County and as the head of a household of five. This is the only documentation uncovered about the John Owen in Cumberland County. In *Story of Fayetteville*, John A. Oates mentions two men named John Owen, Governor John Owen and presumably the John Owen listed in the 1820 census. Oates obviously confused the two men in several places, thus leaving several perplexing questions about them. John A. Oates, *The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear* (1950; reprint ed., Raleigh: Litho Industries, Inc., 1972), 109, 112, 452, passim, hereinafter cited as Oates, *Story of Fayetteville*; Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Cumberland County, 18.

³William McPheeters served as principal of the Raleigh Academy from 1810 until 1826

as I otherwise would have done calculating on collections from Notes already due—and also from such as would become due in a day or two after I should leave the place—Perhaps you could make it convenient to furnish her—You Bond was left in her hand and can be lifted on application

Your Son Cap^t Blount⁴ is in this town and well—He passed the Door a few minutes ago—One of his Soldiers died this Morning

your respectfully
William M^c Pheeters

[No address]

Willie Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE Feb^y 10th 1813

Dear Brother,

Since writing you the other day by mail informing you that I was married the other day to M^{rs} Mary White of this place, and that I should by M^r Jordan send you a Statement of the business of the Salter's Estate, nothing interesting has occurred—but as Major Harmon informs me he is on his way to Washington I write to inform you that we are all well here and that I still intend to send you a statement of the business of Salter's estate⁵ by M^r Jordan who probably will be along here in a week or two & in the mean time I have to get some vouchers &^c from those who have attended to the land belonging to the estate in Campbell and Anderson Counties the want of which prevents me from sending the statement by Major Harmon to whom I refer you for the news of our quarter of the world who can give it more in detail than I can write it—My Mary, Mary Miller⁶ & the Girls join me in the request that you present us affectionately to your family & friends and ask you to accept assurances of our

affectionate attachment
Willie Blount

and as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh. John S. Grasty, *Memoir of Rev. Samuel B. McPheeters* (St. Louis: Southwestern Book and Publishing Company, 1871), 28-29; see also McPheeters Family Papers, North Carolina State Archives.

⁴This is probably a reference to John Gray Blount, Jr., but it could be to William Augustus Blount.

⁵For Salter's estate see 1807, n. 33.

⁶Mary Louisa Blount Miller was the daughter of William Blount and the wife of Pleasant M. Miller. See 1803, n. 26; 1804, n. 11.

John Gray Blount Esq^r

P. M. Miller is still volunteering in Georgia & I don't know the time he and his companions in arms expect to return—

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
 Washington
 North Carolina

Hon'd by
 Major Harmon

Peter Schermerhorn & Sons⁷ to John Gray Blount

[April 24, 1813]

John G Blount Esq^r

Sir

Annexed you have sales of the Beeswax shipped to us in October 1810. p^r Schooner Olive Branch—nett proceed Dollars 86 90/100 is to your Credit—& we are glad to close the Sales of that consignment, which has been so long standing.

Will you please to do us the favor to inform us the lowest prices at which, Tar, Rosin & Turpentine, can be had at with you, and what the expences p^r month would be, if it lies a few months before shipped & what would be the probable loss by leakage—and if drafts on us could be negociated for the payment. & at what rate—We shall be glad of a reply to these enquiries as early as possible—which will much oblige

Your ob^t Serv^t

Peter Schermerhorn & Sons
 New York 24^h April 1813—

- (2) Sales of Bees wax rec^d from John G Blount Esq^r for Scooner Olive Branch John Flowers Master being the remains of a Consignment for Said Vessel rec^d in October 1810—

⁷For Peter Schermerhorn see 1803, n. 51.

1813

Apl 24	Sold A [manuscript torn] for Cash—		
	1 Cask Bees wax	195	
	Loose	266	
		<hr/>	
		461@ 20 Cts	92 20
	— — — — — Charges — — — — —		
	Storage	3. 0	
	Commissions 2 ½ per Ct	2. 30	5 30
		<hr/>	
			Dols — 86 90
	Errors Excepted		

New York 24th April 1813.

for P Schermerhrn & Sons

J Willis

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
 Washington
 North Carolina

Mail

James Hoskins⁸ to John Gray Blount

COLUMBIA 5th May 1813

DSir/

having a favourable Oppertunity, I beg of you to Send me £ 20.0.0. the amount due me for the taxes in Tyrrell for 1810 with Interest included, which I am at this time much in want of—Colo^l Alexander the bearer will call on you when at Washington and your Sending it by him will confer a very Singular Obligation on yours

very Sincerely
 James Hoskins

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
 Washington

⁸For James Hoskins see 1803, n. 78.

Charlotte Murren to John Gray Blount

PORTSMOUTH May the 12 1813

Sir

I have taken the Liberty to Write to you Altho a Perfect Stranger to ask you if you will be so kind as to Call on M^r Redmond For the Money that is Due Me From him as my Husband has been Absent so long that I am in great want of Money Or I should not have taken the Liberty to write to you myself But as M^r Gatt informed me that he had wrote to you in my Behalf and M^r Redmond wrote me word that if I would send for the Money it was ready for me and I Did not know in whose hands to place it Where it would be as safe as in yours Sir if you receive it please to take out as much as will Satisfy you for your trouble and send me the Ballance by Doing so Sir you will very much Oblige me—

Charlotte Murren

PS)

the whole Amount is 1 hundred and 7 Dollars

CM

Addressed: M^r Blunt
 Washington
 North Carolina

*John Gray Blount to William Hawkins⁹*WASHINGTON May 25th 1813D^r Sir

An express Boat which left Ocacock Bar this morning informs that on Friday last a Schooner with American Colours ankered off the Barr on which a Pilot Boat with four Hands went on board & were informed that the Schooner wanted to come in over the Bar & still pretended to be Americans & were very liberal in their abuse of the British, but in a short time informed the Pilots that she was the British Schooner the

⁹William Hawkins served as governor of North Carolina from 1811 to 1814. He also served several terms in the General Assembly and was speaker of the House of Commons. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 160, 249, 250, 256, 257, 260, 271. This letter comes from the Governors Papers, XXXVIII, William Hawkins, January 1-June 4, 1813, North Carolina State Archives.

Venus late the Highflyer Privateer of Baltimore and that she must be piloted in over the Bar. On the Pilots assuring them there was not water sufficient for her draft to come in safely they man'd the Pilot Boat with the avowed intention of burning the Revenue Cutter and other Vessels then within the Bar and left the Schooner with the signal for a Pilot still flying in proceeding in to execute their truly British plan they met another Pilot Boat going out to the Schooner which they ordered along side of them, and inform'd them they (2) were in want of water on board & requested that they would proceed on board & take on shore a few Casks to fill for them no doubt supposing they would proceed on board & be detained but they observing the number of armed men & the silence of their Brother Pilots in the first Boat supposed all was not right & proceeded no farther towards the Schooner than to get out of the mark of their muskets & then rowed on shore to give the alarm. On the Officer in the Boat observing that, he observed that he wished he had sunk that Boat, that they must now return as she would give the Alarm; they accordingly did return on board & in a short time discharged the Pilots observing that they would soon return better prepared to execute their design, & on Sunday last they again return'd off the Bar & took a Sloop which had just gone out

Letters by this Boat inform that the Revenue Cutter was not maned or prepared in any way to make resistance & that the few Inhabitants on both sides the Inlet are without Arms or Amunition but are well disposed not only to resist the attacks of the British but to render every assistance to the shipping within the Bar which are now left wholly unprotected by the sending away the two Gun Boats which were stationed there

(3) From having understood that you intended sending two Companies of militia to each of the Towns of Edenton, Washington, New Bern and Wilmington I have taken the liberty of giving you the information this day received And beg leave to offer it as my opinion that one Company stationed at Ocacock composed of men accustomed to the water and commanded by a brave and enterprising Captain also acquainted with Ocacock & their Pilot Boats to assist & supply the Inhabitants there with Arms & Amunition would afford more security to all the Northern part of North Carolina as well as the numerous Vessels now daily arriving there from the Blockade of Virginia than all the Companies can that can be stationed at the Towns aforesaid even if the object of them Troops should be to guard against internal Enemies; And as that Subject is before me I will take the liberty of observing that it is my opinion that now the lower Counties are supplied with Arms if they are judiciously disposed of & a supply of Powder & Ball procured there will be nothing to fear from insurrection And if one good Company selected from Hyde

or some of the Counties accustomed to the water & commanded by the most active & popular Pilot on Ocacock Island and the US Government can be prevailed on to order back to Ocacock (4) the two Gun Boats lately ordered from there or some other two there will be little danger at Ocacock And without that or the building a Fort on Beacon Island there is no safety for Vessels or other Property at Ocacock or its vicinity or even in the Towns of New Bern, Washington or Edenton. The importance of the Subject to myself & my fellow Citizens will I hope justify me in the liberty I have taken in writing you thus freely

I am with much respect
your Excellencys most Obed^t
Humble Serv^t
JG Blount

[No address]

Enoch Sawyer¹⁰ to John Gray Blount

CAMDEN COUNTY May 28th 1813

Dear Sir/

I am requested by a particular friend of Mine, Mr Richard Winslow, to enquire of you, if the Castle is now to be rented or leased and the terms and conditions p^r annum, for the Tavern House Alone or the whole, if your terms are thought reasonable you will immediately hear from him on the Subject

I am very respectfully
Dear Sir

(2) [John Gray Blount's notation]

yours most sincerely
Enoch Sawyer

Am^ott that I would take the present year 300\$

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

¹⁰Enoch Sawyer appears in the 1820 census as the head of a household containing five males and four females. He represented Camden County in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1784 to 1790 and was a delegate to both constitutional ratification conventions held in 1788 and 1789 respectively. He was also collector of the port for Camden. Jesse Forbes Pugh, *Three Hundred Years along the Pasquotank: A Biographical History of Camden County* (Durham: Privately printed [by Seeman Printery, Inc.], 1957), 129-132; Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Camden County, 15-16.

*John Gray Blount to J. O. K. Williams*¹¹

[June 12, 1813]

Sir having understood that no proposals were like to be put in or delivered you for building a Jail in Washington agreeably to the Description & Plan presented by [illegible] I have determined that I will build the same agreeable to the Description in your hands and compleat the same in two years from the date of my Contract for the Sum of three thousand Dollars

J.G. Blount

Washington June 12th 1813

(2) Received the within Proposals for Building the Jail at half Past Twelve Oclock

J. O. K. Williams Jr

Addressed: Major J O K Williams

*Robert Love*¹² to *John Gray Blount*

WAYNESVILLE 18th of June 1813

Sir

Since I wrote You last I have been on to the warm springs & its Neighbourhood I have run the line of Your Survey, from opposite the painted rock so as to see how it would interfere with M^r Balls 3 Surveys which I Shew You the Copys of whilst at Washington; The Tract which he lives on he can Bar You under the Statute. The Other two he cannot. One of the other two the line runs through his improvement leaving about two thirds to You, this Tract was Granted in 1807 Consequently his improvement Cannot as Yet avail him anything and the third One which is one of the two Granted 1803 he has only been improving for about two Years past, that that one also is out of the Question M^r Ball appears perfectly reconcil'd under his Situation & request that no suit may be brought against him, which I have promised not to do untill we can see other again at Buncombe County Court the first monday in July, he wants to

¹¹This letter was probably to J. O. K. Williams, who later represented Beaufort County in both houses of the state legislature. Reed, *Beaufort County*, 128, 130.

¹²For Robert Love see 1811, n. 16.

purchase 5 or 600 acres but I told him I Could give him No encouragement as I Expected You intended Building an Iron works [illegible] Neighbourhood from Your instructions to me, this I conceived myself [illegible] to State to him from the Great advantages that combine in favour of that place over any other that I ever recollect to have Seen; In Erecting Iron works there are Three Materials or principles that are of primary importance (to wit) Water, wood, & Ore and it is rare that any two of those can be had Very convenient together but at this place all Three are as conveniently Situated almost as a man could wish, as well as everything Else for Carrying on the Business; Unless the quit Claim deed which You have made to Col^o Avery¹³ should interfere with a Small tho necessary Scite for a furnace on Shitin Creek,¹⁴ I had not at that time the Comps of that deed with me or I would have examin'd, this plan if not taken away, is so convenient to an ore bank that the ore might almost be brought in a wheel Barrow, a Scite for a forge can be had on french Broad river, within one mile of that place, and the proprietor who is friendly with me tells me that if I cannot find a better one I Shall have that one, The Country around the ore bank has a Great deal of Valluable Timber fit for Coaling which is an essential object, And for the Building Timber the river is Very advantageous, as it may be brought down for Several Miles, where the best kind can be (2) had; an immensity of both Free and Limestone for the Buildings can be Conveniently had; And if a works was once in operation at that place, all the Surplus Iron & Casstings after home Consumption could be taken from the forge Hammer in Boats at Convenient Seasons to every part of the western Country; And if a Nail factory was Erected at that place the[y] would find a ready market in the Western Country—The only objection against the place is that it lyes much in the mountains and by some it may be thought, that an inconvenience might be experienced in the Article of provision, but my Opinion is Very different, for it is much easier to furnish provision from 10 or 12 miles distance than to be Surrounded by Large farms which would soon make wood for Coaling Very inconvenient, I have said that provisions can be had in 10 or 12 miles, & this I do aver to be the Case that it might in that distance be had to Supply Severall Sets of works, flour would be delivered at the place for from 1 ½ Dollar

¹³This reference is probably to Waightstill Avery (1741-1821), a prominent political figure and soldier of the Revolutionary War period. He helped write the state constitution of 1776, served in the first state legislature, and commanded the Jones County militia. After the war he moved to Burke County and represented that county numerous times in the General Assembly. Subsequently he moved to Tennessee, where he died. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, VII, 1-5.

¹⁴Shitin Creek may refer to Shit-Britches Creek, which rises in southeast Buncombe County and flows into Cane Creek. Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*, 452.

to 2\$ p^r C^t and Corn or meal at 37 ½ Cents p^r Bushell, pork at from 3 to 4\$ p^r 100 and Beef at 2 ½\$ p^r 100—And after a few Years when the Timber to be cut down for Coaling a Great deal of Small Grain could be made & forage Sufficient for the Necessary teams & Cattle for Carrying on the works—I Shall have a Load of the ore brought to a forge and Tryrd, Yet I have no doubt of its being off an Excellent quality—These are things You can think off; and if You cannot think of going into the Business if You will let me have the Bank and as much of the Land as will be necessary for carrying on the Business I will form a Connection for that purpose with some men of interprise that may be able to give it a Start in the first moments of the Business, Then afterwards the only thing wanting to make it a most Valuable acquisition will be Care and Industry—

A power for me to do any of Your Business here will be necessary I have return'd Your Land for Taxation for the Year 1812, and whether the business will pass unnoticed for the preceeding Years I do not know;

I have Rec^d no Letter from You since I saw You; I want You if You please not to Neglect to forward me an Order or direction to M^r Strother to pay me the (3) Land for the Bills I delivered in, as he probably will not feel authorised to go farther than the obligation mentions & will take no notice of the Ac^t This may be necessary for me to have before I go on to the western Country this fall, the more so as I have inform'd the Ragsdale family of the arrangment about the Bills & informed them, that I Expected to be able to Convey to them their Share of that Business when I might get out;

I have enclosed a Letter from Hamilton Kyle to myself on the nature, and manner of Erecting the Spining Machine, Also a Clumsy drawing of my Own making from Memory—Your Extensive Machanical Ideas must direct You from Experimental Observations as soon as You can Get part of the wheels in Operation, to improve when needfull, after which You can put four Spinning Wheels in Operation from the one Large Wheel

Myself and family are enjoying a State of perfect health except a hurt which I received on my Breast in my return from the Springs the other day, and I flatter myself that those lines will meet Yourself family & all friends in the Neighbourhood of Washington enjoying Equal health

I am with respect Your friend
R^o Love

John G. Blount esquire

NB. I shall make some arrangement to let 6 or 8000 acres of Your Land in the Neighbourhood of the Springs go for the Taxes of the present Year which will give me an opertunity of finding what part of the Mountains

will be the least Needfull to retain I am well assured that the lines of Your Grant will Cover at least 30000 acres or more

Addressed: John G Blount esquire
Washington North Carolina
Postmaster
Beaufort County

*Thomas H. Blount to William Hawkins*¹⁵

COLLECTORS OFFICE
PORT OF WASHINGTON
June 29th 1813

Sir,

Yours of the Ins^t was yesterday rec^d at this office—previous to the receipt thereof I had dispatched officers to the farthest inlets of this District to prevent the offenses stated in your Communication as far as practicable—From the vigilance of the Officers employed I confidently hope that violaters of the laws will be detected; but there are other Districts on the Seabord, where other Collectors reside, to whom I have sent Copies of yours & its inclosures, endeavouring as far as possible to excite their attention, to so important an object

With sentiments of Esteem
I have the honor to be
Sir
your Most Obd
Thos. H Blount Coll.

His Excellency
William Hawkins

¹⁵For William Hawkins see 1813, n. 9. This letter is recorded in the governor's letter book. Thomas H. Blount to William Hawkins, June 29, 1813. Governors Papers, XXXIX, William Hawkins, June 7-November 8, 1813, North Carolina State Archives.

*Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount*KNOXVILLE July 2^d 1813D^r Sir

I find on the words of Knox County a Judgment in your name, against William Blount Executor of David Allison for about \$34,000 the particular sum &c you have below. this Judgment I am informed, was obtained by William Blount with a view of Securing Such of Allison's property as might be come at & making it subservient to his views perhaps for the payment of his debts this I presume was with your knowledge be that as it may I want you if you please to assign that Judgment in Blank, I will fill it up as occasion may offer, I am inclined to think I can make something of it if you feel disposed to put it my power you can do so in your own words, dispatch is absolutely necessary. Jackson¹⁶ & others have made a general purchase of the Heirs of all his Allison's property in this country, for the purpose of speculation I feel disposed to give them or Some of them some trouble if I can make a trifle well an immediate reply is Necessary let your determination be wat it may we are all well

I am D sr
Pleasant M Miller

(2) Knox County
January Term 1800

John G. Blount

vs.

Judg^t 34690

William Blount Executor of David Allison

You will be able to Specify the Judgmt from the above Memoranda—

PM Miller

¹⁶The land speculator David Allison owed Andrew Jackson \$20,000. When Allison died Jackson sued Allison's heirs in federal court for the money, was awarded 5,000 acres of land, and then learned in 1810 or 1811 that the court that had awarded the land did not have jurisdiction in the case. Jackson went on horseback to Georgia and persuaded Allison's heirs to sign over the 5,000 acres to him in exchange for Allison's \$20,000 note, which Jackson still held. Jackson was then able to sell the 5,000 acres with a clear land title. Robert V. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Bank War* (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1967), 18-19, hereinafter cited as Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Bank War*; Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 87-90.

Addressed: John G. Blount Senior
 Washington
 North Carolina

Richard Winslow to John Gray Blount

CAMDEN C° NC 8 July 1813

John Gray Blount Esqr

Sir my Friend Enoch Sawyer Esqr wrote you upon my account respecting the Castle, your part of which I rushed to *Him*, we have received your Answer you say I may have it for Three Hundred Dollars pr year, I have concluded to take it & shall move there in a few weeks

am told a Mr Wallis now lives in it, I have seen his Brother & informed him of this arrangement & have no doubt he will give it up when I call upon him, you observe in your Letter that the Premises are out of Repair, Should I find it very bad & unsafe I hope you will be willing to have some Repairs put upon it, is not your Rent high give me leave to hope when you *Reflect* upon the *difficulties* of the *times* & Impossibility of doing much Business you will lessen the price

I am with Respect
 Sir your obedient
 Servant
 Rich^d Winslow

John G Blount Esqr

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
 Washington
 N Carolina

Samuel Topping¹⁷ to John Gray Blount

PROSPECT MILL July 19th 1813

M^r John Gray Blount,

Dear Sir,

I Recvd your Letter by my father while at pungo. In Regard of Collecting and purchasing wheat I will do the best I can for you. Should the

¹⁷For Samuel Topping see 1805, n. 46.

Ennemy not give us cause to have our homes to defend our Rights and Libertys and Should the Enemy attack us I presume Every man will Volenteer his Servises in behalf of his County or any other County that Stands in need of them However it appears to be the Spirit of our County—Colⁿ Watson told me to day that the British Sailed from the Baar to Sea on Friday Last But plundered the Inhabitants¹⁸ very much of Stock &c before thare departure the amount of Damage is not Estimated Therefore as the Enemy is gone our Volenteers and Guards are Discharged by order of the Col^{on}, I Shall not Return to pungo as I am hear I think in all august I Shall be able to Collect what wheat Can be got—In Regard to my Sisster Lucas Sending for the Corps of poor Henry her Son wishing him Removed was Something that was not approved off (2) by me by no means But She was in much trouble about the death of him as She had never been to Sea him in all his Sickness for which She blamed her Self for She Said that She always heard that he was getting Better and I Saw a man Right from washington about the 5 or 6 July and he Said he Saw Henry walking the Street that he had got quite well and that I told her when I got home that he was better and I further Knew in Regard of moving the Corps that it would not be allowed of by the Inhabitants of the town for fear of its Breeding Some Infectious disease But with all this I could not Reconcile her as She Said She wanted him Buried by his father—As to the care was taken of Henry while Living or the body of him when dead Thare is no doubt with me or any of the Connection of Henry But that he was treated well and Buried Decently—and nothing D^r Sir I well Know Could have Induced you to have taken the Trouble uppon your Self and family But that Benevolent Hart you had for the Orphan (3) I Regret the death of poor Henry very much and feel very Sorry that So much trouble Should faul on you without a Cause. I well no he was Better taken care of at your House then he Could have been at home that is no Doubt with none of us—I feel my Self under many obligations to you for your good treatment to Henry and his Little Brothers and my Self in time past for which I fear you never will be Rewarded hear for But I hope you may hereafter—The voage to washington had like to have Ended more Serious than the Death of the poor Boy The Horse Run away With the Cart and Like to have Killed my father Sharp and Sam^l Lucas I never got my father at home until Thursday he Stopped at town Creek he was wounded in [illegible] head very bad So that he did not come to his Rite Sensses until Fri-

¹⁸The British troops who landed on Ocracoke and Portsmouth seized cattle, sheep, and fowl, in addition to reportedly destroying much private property. The admiral in charge, George Cockburn, ordered that restitution for the livestock be made to the local inhabitants, but the \$1,600 received did not begin to match the value of the cattle or any of the other confiscated property. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 132.

day Sam¹ was hurt in his head Sharp the wheel Run over and wounded much But the negroes Brot the Buoys home But my fater Could not bare to be moved until Thursday and I Could not dare leave my fater until Sunday Last he was So Bad General Muster on Satyrday (4) at the Mills/ It was So that I Could not Send your Letter to Mr Hollowell about Sending your hands home, until I come down on Sunday and on that day I met your hands going home, I Expected to have Returned to pungo Immediately as I belonged to the 8 Guard but Coln Watsson Dismissed me and all the Rest and wrote to the Major to disscharge all under his Care until further orders—Please to Inform M^r Oneel and Mr Coltsson that Sharp & Samuel Lucas got Hurt and are Sick is the Reason they do not Return The buoys is very fond of Mr Oneel & Mr Coltsson and they are Sorry they Cant Return as soon as they Expected too I told them when they got well to go up—and Should you Sea these men I will thank you to tell them as I have not a Chance to write them

I am yours with Esteem—

Sam¹ Topping

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount
Washington
July 19th 1813

*William Hawkins to John Gray Blount and Thomas Singleton*¹⁹

HEAD QUARTERS²⁰
23^d July 1813

Sir

I owe you an apology for not having answered the communication which you did me the honor to make me some time since upon the subject of defence, which I hope I shall shortly have the pleasure of making

¹⁹Thomas Singleton of Hyde County represented that county in the North Carolina Senate in 1820 and in the House of Commons from 1830 to 1832. During the War of 1812 Singleton, collector of the port at Ocracoke and Portsmouth, helped organize coastal trade designed to bypass the British blockade. When a British force invaded the islands in 1813 in an effort to catch some of these trading vessels, Singleton was held prisoner for two days before being released when the British troops returned to Norfolk. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 276, 295, 297; Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 126, 131-133. Hawkins's letters to Blount and Singleton appear on the same pages in the Governors Letter Books, William Hawkins, 1812-1813, North Carolina State Archives.

²⁰After an attack at Ocracoke and Portsmouth by the British on July 11, 1813, Colonel Nathan Tisdale called out the New Bern militia and sent an urgent message for help to Governor William Hawkins. Tisdale and others believed the British were about to attack New Bern, and frantic preparations were made to build up the town's defenses. Upon



Governor William Hawkins (1777-1819) moved his headquarters from Raleigh to New Bern in the summer of 1813 when a British fleet of nine ships and nineteen barges anchored off Ocracoke. After the British departed, he spent a month visiting coastal fortifications. Photograph from the files of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

you in person. A copy of your letter I immediately after the receipt of it forwarded to the War Office.

After examining Prices survey which has been laid before me I am strongly in favor of erecting a fortification on Beacon Island.²¹ If that chart be correct it would seem that nature had placed that Island where it is as the foundation of a work which adequately improved might at no very great expense afford ample protection to the Towns &c on the waters of the Pamlico and Albemarle sounds. I wish much to effect that work. I am aware of the difficulties and the danger that might at present attend it. Having been informed that part of the materials of which a Fort at that place should be constructed, belongs to you, it is necessary I should treat with you before I attempt it. Should I finally make up my mind to do so I shall go to Ocracock perhaps tomorrow for the purpose of satisfying myself by actual observation as to the propriety and practicability of building a Fort on Beacon Island, where it would give me great pleasure to meet with you. Should the War continue and we neglect to fortify that Island ourselves, I, at present entertain not the Shadow of a doubt but that the Enemy will do so, as it would place it

learning of the situation through Tisdale's message, Governor Hawkins went with a troop of cavalry to New Bern to lend assistance and command the forces if the British did attack. The citizens of New Bern were most appreciative of the governor's coming in person, and the local committee of safety formally commended him. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 133-135.

²¹Beacon Island is located near Ocracoke Inlet. It was granted to John Gray Blount and John Wallace by the state of North Carolina in 1789. They sold it to the federal government in 1799. The island was fortified during the war, but the defenses were never used. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 139; Stick, *The Outer Banks*, 77, 79.

completely in his power to steal with impunity as many (2) sheep, cattle &c as his hungry fleet on our coast might require.

Permit me to offer you an assurance of the high consideration and respect with which

I have the honor to be,
very respectfully
Sir,
Your Obedient &c
William Hawkins

John Gray Blount Sen Esq^e

HEAD QUARTERS NEW BERN
24th July 1813

Sir

Having been informed that you were at Portsmouth when the British landed on that Island and having heard much of their conduct whilst there, I have determined to solicit you to favor me with a communication upon this subject; wherein it is expected you will detail such occurrences as happened during their stay at that place & under your immediate observation or such as you may have received from a source entitled to credit. I do not conceive it necessary at this late day that facts should be adduced to show the real character of the Enemy, as their Acts have impressed it so strongly, and at so many points, that it is as well known, as it is deprecated by the rest of the civilized world, but if you have it in your power to embrace in your communication the particulars of the savage cruelty exhibited by them in shooting the unfortunate man on the Island,²² you will I hope not omit doing so.

I am with great consideration
Sir,
Your Ob^t &c
William Hawkins

Thomas S. Singleton Esq^e
Collector of the Port of Occacock

²² Richard Casey, an aged resident of Ocracoke Island, was wounded by invading British troops. The British admiral, George Cockburn, expressed regret for the incident. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 132-133.

Ben B. Hunter to John Gray Blount

PLYMOUTH
July 26th 1813

Sir,

In consequence of Some intelligence, which we have recently rec^d the citizens of this place will convene to day, for the purpose of a dopting Such measures as will be calculated to Secure them from the danger of a domestic insurrection.²³

There being a rumour of Such a design we think it prudent to use a little timely precaution for the purpose of frustrating it, and thinking that possibly no Such Suspicions might exist at Washington, I have taken the liberty of giving you this information, in order that you might Suggest the propriety of a Similar mode of procedure, Should you think it necessary.

The plan which we intend to adopt, in pursuance to Some, which have been already executed, in Some of the upper Counties, is to solicit the Colonel to apportion out Such a part of each Captain's company as will be Sufficient to make diligent Search throughout the County among all the negroes, for the purpose of discovering, any arms, ammunition &c which they may have in possession, to be conducted however with Such Secrecy, as may prevent their discovering the object of our Search.

Yours respectfully
Ben. B. Hunter

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

politeness
M^r Doring

²³ As in other periods of crisis, slaves capitalized on the unsettled conditions to seek their freedom. White fears of slave insurrection led to several alarms along the North Carolina coast in the summer of 1813, and the militia was placed on alert. When some sixty or seventy slaves fled to British warships off the coast, Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren considered plans to arm a corps of runaway blacks, who were reportedly eager to join the British and who were secretly drilling at night. No slave revolt occurred, but white fears of insurrection remained intense throughout the war. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 196-198. Also see Jeffrey J. Crow, "Slave Rebelliousness and Social Conflict in North Carolina, 1775 to 1802," *William and Mary Quarterly*, third series, XXXVII (January, 1980), 79-102.

Andrew Joyner²⁴ to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON 5th August 1813

Sir

Being on the eve of setting out for our respective homes, we cannot do justice to our feelings, without expressing to you the grateful sense we entertain of the very polite, liberal, and hospitable treatment, we have experienced at your hands. If the generous treatment you have given us had been accorded to us by an intimate acquaintance, it would have received as it would have merited our warmest acknowledgements, but when we consider it has proceeded from who but a few days ago was an entire stranger to us, our powers of language fail us in attempting to describe how much we feel ourselves indebted to you. And whilst we offer you the tribute of our sincere thanks and acknowledgements for your kindness towards us individually & collectively, permit us to assure you it has made an impression on our minds, which can never be effaced. With the most earnest wishes for your health and happiness we are Sir with sentiments of (2) the highest respect and esteem Your most obliged,

humble Servants
Andrew Joyner
Amos P. Sledge
Edw'd Pattillor
H.G. Williams²⁵

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

Edward Young to John Gray Blount

PORTSMOUTH V^A Augst 7th 1813

Dear Sir

My suspension from the Gun Boat system for the four succeeding Months, for an unintentional error; compels me to be on the alert to support my family during the interim, & as I understand engineering thoroughly, & you are about to erect a Battery on Beacon Island, should

²⁴Andrew Joyner represented Martin County in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1811 through 1813. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 261, 262, 264.

²⁵Henry G. Williams represented Martin County in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1809. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 257.

have no hesitation in accepting the superintendence of the same; provided a liberal compensation will be made for such service—Thro the intercession of yourself in my behalf “if none other in View” may possibly be the means of procuring me the situation alluded to—A return to this request Stating the particulars &c. will be gratefully received by Dear Sir

Your
Obt^t Serv^t
Edw^d L. Young

Jn^o G. Blount Esq^r

Addressed: Jn^o G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N. Carolina

*Moses Mordecai*²⁶ to John Gray Blount

GREENVILLE 7th August 1813

John G. Blount Esqr.

Sir

As attorney for the United States I am directed to inform you that they will not receive any more shells under the Contract made with you & M^r John Wallace, through James Taylor their agent. and to demand of you payment of the Money advanced by the United States deducting the amount of the shells furnished under the Contract, if any were furnished. This determination has been made known to you & a Similar demand made Five years ago. I am directed to repeat it and in case of non compliance to commence an action.

I am Sir your Ob St.
M: Mordecai

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

²⁶This correspondent was probably Moses Mordecai (1785-1824), who was born in New York City and later came to live in Warrenton, North Carolina. A lawyer, he settled in Raleigh and became one of the state's ablest attorneys. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 417.

William Watson²⁷ to John Gray Blount

MATTAMUSKEET Augt. 11th. 1813

Sir,

I think it better to confess Ignorance, And apply for Instruction where it may be obtained, Than to remain ignorant & suffer by the consequences. When I receiv'd the information of the Enemy having entered Ocrecock Inlet & Were Landing on the Points, I thought Proper to call my Militia together, & had about Three Hundred men under Arms Four days, and A Company of Volunteers, Stobd Three days Longer, During this time we had Occasion to call on certain Individuals to furnish us with Beef, meal &c. Necessary for our Support, I also thought it advisable to purchase in all the Ammunition I could obtain, Which I still have on hand & think Proper to retain it for Public use.

I shall esteem it a favor if you will Inform me By Letter, Whether (or not) we are entitled to Draw on the public for compensation for the Articles furnished, And if we are; How to make out Certificates & who to Draw on, So as to have the business in Legal form.

I am Sir With Respect

Yours &c.

W^m Watson Lieut. Col.

Comdt. Hyde Regt.

P.S. I suppose you will conclude us an Ignorant set, and if you do, your conclusion will be Just.

W.W.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq.
Washington

p^r M^r Selby

²⁷William Watson represented Hyde County in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1822 through 1825. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 280, 282, 284.

Samuel Topping to John Gray Blount

PROSPECT MILL August 27th 1813—27th

M^r John G Blount,

D^r Sir

The collection of wheat is more than it was Last year by a Considerable But the promisses of people is better tharefore it appears that they will pay in promisses as usual and not wheat. as I have attended hear Steady all this month and before for the purposse of Recving wheat—thare is Several people not cleaned thare wheat out no faster than they use it, thare is 50 or bussshels wheat promissed me at Swan quarter that they have not Bro^t the water Keeps so low in the Lake and Canel So that they cant bring up a Loaded Canoe, The fact is thare is not many that lives hear that has got the wheat to pay more than they must have for thare own use—I think that it will be a chance for you to have your wheat ground hear for the mill does not grind more than Enough for family use the water Keeps So low and that is only when the wind is northwardly that she will grind any—as for Buying wheat for notes wont do as they think they will get money those that has to Sell—The Crops of Corn is good perhaps we may Collect Corn for debts as they will have much of that to Spare and with a few articles to make up a Small assortment about the Last of november I will Sell the balance of Goods on hand hear for Ready pay If you think proper to do so I will attend at that time if Possible

I am Yours with much Esteem
Sam Topping

N.B. I was at Swan quarter Election and thare was a Man told Zachariah Jarvis Eq^r²⁸ that it was Reported to you the he and his Brothers were torys and Refused to do duty when the men Convenied to gether to Keef Guard the time that the British was at Ocracoak and you Said if you thought that he was a tory you would be one of the men to Come and Burn his house (2) over his head, which Mr Jarvis Replied that it would be no more than he Deserved, was he guilty—M^r Jarvis denyes the Charge in point he Says that he maid Every preparation for to on Guard and went—we got [illegible] guns and furnished with a number of Bauls of his own make and Carried down to the guard Station for him Self &

²⁸Zachariah Jarvis represented Hyde County in the North Carolina House of Commons during 1805 and 1806. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 250, 252.

Son—his Brothers was al Ready thare—His Son in Law M^r Gaskins²⁹ was [illegible] of a Canoe when he was noticed as one of the Guard to meet, he Said he would be down with them as Soon as he Could Get his Gun in order & go home for her—and before he Could wash his Gun and get his dinner they Sent a file of men after him to Carry him by force But when the men got thare they never told thare Business only Cauled in Stayed a while and Asked him if he was going to take his Station with the Guard and he Said yes Stop a few moments and I will go with you—and when they got to thare Stations Gaskins found that these men, that was at his house, was Sent after him. and they and the Rest of the people, Cauled him a tory and all the Jarvis^s, they Said that they had him to Send [manuscript torn] [illegible] and that [illegible] Gaskins went home and Said the next men that Come after him he would Shutt, and from that the Confusion arose they Said that it was his father in Law Jarvis^s fault that he was maid a tory by him. Zac Jarvis Says that he done Every thing to get him Back and as Such he went Back to his Station thare Foolish flouts was (3) the cause of the Reports at home & abroad—M^r Zachariah Jarvis Requested me to write you Privately a few Lines Beging your advise How is the Best way to Extricate him Self from the Charge alledged against him as he Says that he can prove his proceeding during the time by undoubted witnesses that he was in favour of the mode adopted as to the Guards—also be So kind as to Relate what you heard, is his wish—He Says if his father Refused to fight he Cant help that But he feels willing to Loose the Last drop of Blood in favour of his Country and Reputation—

I do not wish to Say any thing against the Inhabitants of Swan quarter as they have all treated me well—I have thought from the Acquaintance that I had with M^r Jarvis that he was a Republican and a true friend to his Country—

I wish you not to name to any persson about my [manuscript torn] to you about Mr Jarvis^s difficulty as they would add Something

Yours &C

S. Topping

PS the Crops of Corn is very much hurt, fully one third Cut off by a very hard wind and Some Rain the wind Come on Synday morning Last about Sun Rise and Continued with rains abundant [manuscript torn]

Yours ST

²⁹Several men with the name of Gaskins are listed in the 1820 census for Hyde County. Without a first name it is impossible to identify Jarvis's son-in-law.

30th august 1813

Addressed: Mr John Gray Blount
Washington

Josiah Bradley³⁰ to John Gray Blount

SHELL CASTLE Sept^r 26th 1813

Jno G. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir—

The Seen of danger appears nearer approaching than we have heretofore thought from the passific Words from the Officers that have been here before Yesterday, (unless some provocation induced it)—A little Schooner from appearance stood of & on the bar a pilot boat with four Men went to her supposing her intending it, they took one of the pilots & Boat, can^d the other three near the Brakers & made them Jump over board, one of which refus^d the Captain instantly shov^d him over, I suppose from the Account I this moment rec^d they had at least from 1, 2 hundred yards to swim & could they not have done that the consequence they must have drown^d—It will be presumed they will say nothing more about Crany Is.³¹ as this I think was as unhuman as Shuting men in the Water, for they know not wheather the Men could Swim or not—He sais he wanted a pilot to bring in a Brig that was expected here in a few days, & that he himself should be here in a few days & would destroy all before him—This place is in a horid situation liable to be insultin piloged & in fact burn^t out by an unprincipal Villain that chos^es to come here—The Govenor is certainly been very servicable here, he has errected fortifications & supp^d the place with an apple quantity of Militia, & what is more astonishing (2) all done at one Buckfact [?] and he & the Gent. is now Return^d Home, puffing there own Elg^{ms} of there Patriotic excursion along the Sea coast, I suppose they are now satisfied wheather the Gen^l

³⁰For Josiah Bradley see 1811, n. 12.

³¹Crany Point was on Crany Island, which in 1783 became Harker's Island. The island is located between the Straits and Back Sound in southeastern Carteret County. About five miles long and a mile wide, the island was purchased in 1783 by three brothers, Zachary, James, and Ebenezer Harker, who divided it among themselves. Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*, 213.

will be more servicable in the State of Virginia than in his own State— The fact is we are in a desperate situation cut of from all Trade & liable to every insult, should there come in many Vessels to lay here, I think in all probability the Town of Newbern will taste of the sweets we enjoy for such a Night as may be from the appearance of this day they could leave here after dark & be at Newbern or Washington before day light, take them upon suprise & do what ever damage they saw proper, I should like to here y^r opinion what you think is best for this family, it seems unsafe to have Negroes within there reach if they dont force them they decoy, I do not think any of our would go with them expect it was by some alurements, however I mean to keep them out of there reach if possible, for the moment there is danger I will send them away in the lighters (the Sloop is of without Injury) in haste I remain

Dear Sir y^r most Ob^t Hum^l Serv

Jos Bradley esq

N.B. One Ship, one Brig & Schooner lay at the cape on Thursday night. Flag. T. Sch^r return^d to Cheseapeake same day after taking a Sloop loaded with flour bound to New London or elsewhere—J.B—

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Merchant
Washington

Sch^r G. Wallace
Cap^t Balance

Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE September 29th 1813

D Sir

I rec^d your letter two days since containing, some inclosures, & have sent the whole to William, & the girls are gone out to Nashville the signatures may be obtaind there, what the spanish government may do it is impossible to foresee, lands in Florada to them are of no consideration & it is likely an indemnity may be obtaind there, respecting Allison's business, I can only say that my object in geting the assignment, was with a view to assisst Erwin, but whither a better trade might not have been obtained I cannot say, I never knew of this Judgment untill about the latter end of June, last If I had known of it five years ago it might have been made of value equal or nearly so to its amount, there could never have been a doubt but you had a right to redeem upon the ground of your

Judgment, but after the laps of seven years it becomes too doubtfull to risque a suit, & especially where mortgages have made sales to person who must be considered as Innocent under the Decree, as to Jackson & those concerned they cannot I imagine be missled by the purchase from the Heirs, because by his will Allison has divised all his property to be sold by his executors for the payment of Debts which I presume will give his creditors a superior lien upon his property to any the heirs can have, I believe it to be worth while to employ an agent to attend (2) to your debts against Allison, when Jackson went to Georgia & obtained from the Heirs the transfer which he has, he procured a great part or the whole of Alisons papers including I presume all your Brothers letters, &c. these may be obtained I imagine, Jackson at this time knows nothing of your Judgment, & I do verily believe you might do well to pay a personal visit to this country, as it respects yours or any other Judgment they I presume under the will, can have no preference over other debts, especially as they may be supposed to effect any mortgaged property, a Judgment at Law I should suppose cannot bind a mere equity—& Judgments are not preferable to other debts farther than their specific lien, especially under the will I should be glad to commune with you a few days upon this & other subjects but do not know how this is to be done, I am very much ingaged, & the expences of my own immediate family, & the extra's is a burthen that I have for a long time felt, & when they are to be supported by the single exertion of one man, poor in flesh, property & intilect, it requires the unremitted attention of any one, & particularly one who has no nack at spliting Sharpskins, or counting cents—you say you have never seen Allisons Will, I will inclose it if the clerk will copy it, you ought to see it, & I now advise you that a quack Lawyer if their be any such amonghst you, will be unable to instruct you, if you want any information—I desire that you will remember me to all the M^{rs} Blounts in a most particular manner, Mrs Miller & myself make (3) Love & make children as fast as a reasonable man ought to desire, we have six all in fine health, & Mrs M in fair way—Barbara & Elizer³² went to Nashville a few days ago where they will remain for the winter the creeks or a great part of them are hostile,³³ five thousand men will march against them from this State, say in three weeks the troops

³²This is a reference to two of William Blount's daughters, Barbara and Eliza Blount. See 1804, nn. 8, 10.

³³Miller's comment on hostile "creeks" was a reference to the growing tension between white settlers and many of the Indians along the entire western frontier. Settlers feared that a war with England would result in a war with the Indians, some of whom were British allies. As early as 1811 the threat of an Indian war was foreseen, and it finally erupted in Alabama on August 30, 1813. Miller clearly recognized, however, that there were Indians hostile to the Creeks. When the war began many Cherokees joined the American troops in suppressing the Creeks. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 109-113.

are filing of from this place constantly, & I hope they will do well your old acquaintance James Ring is acting as quarter master, General! Cock & Jackson³⁴ will command—

Pleasant M Miller

Your Nephew William³⁵ is to be a considerable man in this State

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

John Gray Blount, Jr., to Thomas H. Blount

CHAUTAUGAY³⁶ Oct^r 7th 1813

Knowing that our army is on it's march for Canada its a fair presumption to suppose you are anxious to Know how we get on—When I wrote you last I expected we should leave this place the next day—I drew my inference from the return of the messenger who had been sent to the Secty. & it's being immediately followed by a generall order which reduced the officers to a second shirt & a blanket which must be taken on their backs & other odd arrangements calculated to produce sufferings which nothing but an intended forced march could justify the inflictions of—But here we continue, & some conjecture, here will end the campaign—Untill yesterday we never have been able to get five days provisions in advance, the road from this to Platsburgh is forty miles & of the worst description and all our supplies are brought from there—From the information of a Deserter the enemy have between two & three

³⁴This reference is to Major General John Cocke (pronounced Cook) and Major General Andrew Jackson, both of whom were appointed by Governor Willie Blount to lead Tennessee armies against the Creek Indians in 1813. Cocke led the army from east Tennessee, while Jackson led the one from west Tennessee. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 191-193. See also 1817, n. 19.

³⁵For William Grainger Blount see 1807, n. 35.

³⁶One of the major objectives of the American war effort was the capture of Canada from Great Britain. Two campaigns were launched against Canada, one in 1812 and the other in 1813, but both ended in failure. The campaign of 1813, in which John Gray Blount, Jr., participated as an aide to General Wade Hampton, was aimed at seizing Montreal through a two-pronged attack. Hampton led one of the two American divisions into Canada via Lake Champlain. There were many skirmishes and the Battle of Chateaugay (River) on October 25, but Hampton abandoned the advance shortly thereafter because of insufficient troops and retired to winter quarters. The second American line of advance failed to achieve a victory as well. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 104-106; Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 146-147. See also 1803, n. 98, for information on Wade Hampton.

thousand encamped about fifteen miles north of us—A few days since about forty Indians made an attack on an advanced corps Killed a Leu^t & one private and wounded another—They were soon routed & persued some distance, had the persuit continued one fourth of a mile further we must have been cut-off, as the Indians sent forward were only intended as a decoy, and the main force remained conceald in the rear consisting of from 6 to 800 Indians & Canadians Our picquet was fired on two nights since & one wounded in the face, the fire was returned & our guard retreated & we remained under arms all night—This has become usual with us of late—

When at Odletown we were within less than forty miles of Montreal—they were unapprised of our approach & there was no force collected to oppose our progress—Our countermarch succeeded (2) by this tedious halt has not only given the enemy time to collect his force in this part of the country, but to draw a considerable force into Montreal—I d[o]ubt very much whether we shall proceed further & if we do our chances of success are much diminished—The head quarters of the army is at the village Our light corps are stationed four miles in advance, which brings us within two of the lines—This is a woodland country & requires to be on the allert to keep-off the copper skins who are lurking about our camp—For our greater security we are throwing up a temporary breast work which will releave us of half our duty—I believe this army would gladly compromise if they could conclude this campaign without disgrace; if we do more it will be so much clear—Say to the Ensign I should like to have him with me for a week, he would be charmed with our habits—sleeping with one blanket & sometimes without any & without tents, would be extremely fascinating to a man of his disposition

The weather begins to be severe to our southern Gent^l and I suspect we shall not be able to Keep the field much longer even if we find no other opponent—My love to the family & say to them, I shall be home by the time the weather gets colder to frolick with my neighbours—

yours affectionately
JG Blount

By an officer from H Quarters this moment we are again induced to believe we shall soon continue our march

Addressed: Thomas H. Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

*John Devereux DeLacy³⁷ to John Gray Blount*NEW YORK Dec^r the 17th 1813John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

my last having apprised you of my being about to set off for Raleigh where I could wish to meet the Representatives of your late Brother,³⁸ I now write to inform you that on consultation with M^r Emmet and a perusal of Allisons will, He is (as well as myself) decidedly of opinion that even Allison himself could make no sale that can be binding especially in the state of New York, That all the residuary Legatees named in the will being also the Joint Heirs at Law must Join in the sale of the surplus assets, bequeathed to them, and in a Joint conveyance of the Lands devised or descending to them as Heirs at Law, And also Join in a power of attorney to authorise the suing for said Lands by Ejectment or otherwise, or confessing a Judgment for any am^t due from said Estate & Testator, either as may be Judged most adviseable by the suitor, under those instructions I think you had better set M^r Strawdor [Strother?] instantly at work to get those engagements with & powers from them so that the suits can at once be (2) commenced to save the claim as otherwise it will in a very few weeks from this be barred by the statute of limitations of this state applying under the particular law in virtue of which it was sold,

If yourself or Brothers family will not proceed I would be thankful for permission to enter into the thing on my own acc^t which delicacy prevents my doing untill you and they have first declined as otherwise I have a friend in Georgia who will get the necessary conveyances & powers, from them for me & I can get the money here to bear me through

I am most Respectfully

Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^tJohn Dev^x DeLacy

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N.C.

³⁷For John Devereux DeLacy see 1812, n. 37.

³⁸This probably refers to William Blount. See 1805, n. 37.

1814

*Articles of Agreement between
John Gray Blount and Abraham Satterwhite*

[January 26, 1814]

Articles of agreement made this 26th day of January 1814 Between John Gray Blount of the Town of Washington of the one part and Abraham Satterwhite of the County of Hyde of the other part witnesseth that the said John Gray Blount hath let to the said Abraham Satterwhite the following ninety one Acres of Land for and during the term of seven years from the date hereof towit beginning at the beginning Corner of the said John Gray Blount Grant for Six Hundred & forty Acres on Broad Creek¹ adjoining Tisons Land which is also Tison Corner and runs with Tisons Line N^o 88 W^s 150 pole to his Corner then N^o 39 E^t 243 pole then to the beginning on the following conditions towit that the said Satterwhite shall annually pay the taxes of the said Land and shall with the said seven years build on said Land a Log or framed House convenient and suitable for a Family to reside in clear thereon fourteen Acres of Land & put the same under a good Fence and plant thereon one Hundred fruit trees such apples Peaches or Pares so as to be some of each and after the expiration of seven years he is to pay rent for the same one third of all the Corn & wheat which can be made on all the Land so cleared except an Acre for Garden &^c And it is understood and agreed that if the said Satterwhite performs this agreement and shall wish at the expiration of the time before to purchase the said Land he shall have the refusal same but if he does not purchase at the expiration of the time (2) It is understood that the Houses & Fences shall all be in as good repair as the common ware of a Plantation will admit so that no waste shall be committed by him or suffer others to do so without giving the said Blount information either on their Land or his adjoining Land In Witness whereof the parties have hereunto set their hand & Seals the date aforesaid

Signed Sealed & Delivered
in presence of —

JG. Blount (Seal)
his
Abraham x Satterwhite (Seal)
mark

Witness Tho^s Blackledge²

¹For Broad Creek see 1805, n. 8.

²Thomas W. Blackledge represented Beaufort County in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1820 to 1824 and from 1827 to 1829. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 276, 278, 280, 282, 289, 291.

It is further agreed between said parties that John Gray Blount will purchase two Cows & Calves and two Stocks of Bees which the said Satterwhite will get home and take care of in the best manner he can and that at the expiration of seven years the stock first harvest and shall be made good to the said Blount & all the increase divided and that annually such of the profits of the Cattle so far as respects the Beef Cattle & the Honey & Wax shall be equally divided.

If more Cattle should offer for sale thereof & be purchased they are to be paid for jointly & the increase of profits be equally divided or if a division shall be sooner required it shall be made on the above principles

his
Abraham x Satterwhite
mark

Witness

Tho^s W Blackledge

Ira Hollowell³ to John Gray Blount

PROSPECT MILL morch 4th 1814

M^r J G Blount

D Sir

By m^r Lucus I send up as pur Last

I have tried to Brak the Hemp but thar was not water. I maid one Hand assist in running of the wheat. I have sent up what I Brok I Do not Belive that the meshson will Brake it at all but I shal [illegible] Every [illegible] wind to see wether it will Do & to no whered it tis [illegible]. you will send plank to Do the flat & oakom to Cork [illegible] on Gunk. I Shal Get Silverthron & D Mury⁴ to Do the hous & what work I want Don to the mill but you Can write me a bout that

I shall See [illegible] a bout mail, as soon as the wether will admit. (2) Davis will begin the postes next week you will [illegible] me how wide

Masteres Land is on the Canal from the upper Line Down to the march as he intend to Sew [sue] you if you work any whior between the

³For Ira Hollowell see 1803, n. 1.

⁴This is probably a reference to Daniel Murry, who is listed in the 1820 census as head of a household containing one male and five females. Potter, 1820 *North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 18.

upper Line & the Bay thirfor I wish you to be Sure wheor to work. I shall sow the Hemp next week

List

34 1/2 [illegible] wheat Horruses—

45 1/2 plantashon—

26 Hirruny tete—

all the turnaps—

Brak Hemp—

Yours to Ser

Ira Hollowell

Addressed: M^r J G Blount
washington

Nathaniel Macon⁵ to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON 5 March 1814

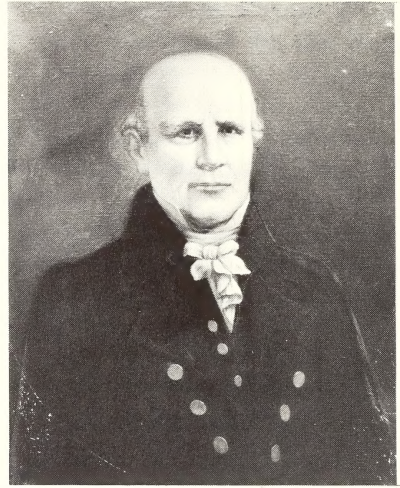
Sir

The letter which you wrote to me on the 20. of last January, has been but lately received, with it M^r De Lacey handed a petition on the same subject, which has been presented to the House of Representatives, and at his special request referred to a select Committee, of which our Countryman Murfree is the chairman

The importance of inland navigation & of turnpike roads is not at this time questioned by any one; But by what ways & means the navigation is to be improved, and the roads to be made, is not a question quite so easily settled, though I apprehend experience has gone far towards doing so; In England canals and roads are private property & there they have been carried to great perfection, here the public good and private interest were both promoted by them; The celebrated canal of Lewis the (2) 14, was so expensive to the monarch, that he gave it, I believe to the Engineer who constructed it, in his hands it was a productive and valuable estate; so far as I understand M^r De Lacey's plan, it is this, that the public should make the improvements he proposes & only require a toll sufficient, to keep the work in repair and support the persons necessary to attend them, I am sure indeed I may say, that I know, that you are satisfied such a plan cannot succeed here or any where else; no one with

⁵For Nathaniel Macon see 1803, n. 91.

Nathaniel Macon (1757-1837), North Carolina's most powerful political figure for nearly half a century, was an old-guard Jeffersonian Republican who opposed any extension of the federal government's power, particularly in the area of internal improvements. This oil portrait of Macon hangs in the United States House of Representatives; photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress.



whom I am acquainted, would more readily discover the objections to its producing a beneficial result; But after all how can the government of the U.S. undertake to lay out & cut canals without the consent of the states through which they are to pass, when it cannot own forts or magazines without the consent of the state in which they may be; I enclose you the bill on the subject of the D. & C. canal, by which you will perceive the vast difference between that, and De Lacey's plan

Whenever the General Government shall be placed in a situation to have the management of (3) canals and roads, it ought as soon as possible to have a complete survey made for canals and another for roads, so as to connect the whole in the most advantageous and convenient manner, every effort without this, will be made more on local considerations than national policy, and the result will probably be that the different works will not be connected in the best possible way, if connected at all, some may have one depth of water and others another; to be usefull one design ought to pervade the whole; and if the General Government were to have a pecuniary interest in the works, it ought to be an equal proportion in the whole

The steam boats in the North river have succeeded in the most complete manner, and are there of immense value, and no doubt can be entertained it seems to me, but that they will succeed in any of our bays or sounds, provided there is sufficient employment for them

Permit me to assure you, that any information from you, will always be thankfully (3) receivd and particularly so, when it concerns our native state

I am with Great respect & esteem
 Sir
 y^r ob^t ser^t
 Nath^l Macon

Addressed: M^r Blount

William Augustus Blount⁶ to Thomas H. Blount

FAYETTEVILLE March 23 1814

Dear Brother

I have this day arrived after a very Fatiguing though not an unpleasant March, Myself & Men have enjoyed very good health and as yet no Desertions—On My Arrival at this place I rec^d orders to March directly for Charleston, which will save Me a Weeks journey, so in a fortnight I hope to be at Head Quarters—M^r Blackledge⁷ accompanied Me to this place and to night leaves me I am Anxous for him to go on, but he cannot, I find pleasure on the road in his [illegible], but I anticipate not much from my present Companion L^t Strut—on the 25 in the Morning I again commence the March I have no News. My Love to all the Members of the family—Wright me soon.

Yours Sincerely
 Will A Blount

Addressed: Thos H. Blount Esq^r
 Washington N Ca^r

John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON April the 14th 1814

John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

Your favor of S^t Pats day (17th Ultimo) reached me here while I was in

⁶For William A. Blount see 1808, n. 2.

⁷For William Blackledge see 1803, nn. 32, 40.

the thick of strife and contention with the ogdens⁸ their family and influence, who all exerted themselves conjointly with Stevens⁹ to attack M^r Fulton¹⁰ in order to break him down but over whom he has obtained a most complete and splendid victory in which it has been my good fortune to have been of considerable use to him, I in fact never have known a more impudent or shameless attempt to wrest from a man the well earned fruits of his labor but their efforts have proved abortive—

I am truly sorry to find that M^{rs} Blount is indisposed still, but trust and sincerely hope that the opening cheering spring will renovate her health and rid her of that abominably ungentelemanly lazy companion the ague, which I was in great hopes she would have long ago, kicked out of doors, as I have done, for it made its very feircest attack upon me and kept me down for a fortnight, but I attacked and turned it out of Doors by hard fighting and strong drinking above it—

It affords me pleasure to inform you that as soon (2) as I can go to Philad^a from hence I will send you the appointment of Russian Consular agent for M^r Rodman, but you and he are before this informed that the presid^t will not give him an exequatur, and that the one he held under the Swedish government—either is or will be withdrawn very speedily however his acts will be as binding on the governm^{ts} that he acts for and represents, as if he had the exequatur from the presid^t, as it only deprives him of consular privileges in the United States—

⁸Aaron Ogden (1756-1839) was a successful New Jersey lawyer and politician who became governor of that state in 1812. A Revolutionary War veteran, he was extremely influential in New Jersey legal circles and served as a United States senator from 1801 to 1803. During the War of 1812 he commanded the New Jersey militia. Later he operated a steam ferry between New Jersey and New York. This ferry service involved Ogden in legal conflicts that ultimately forced him into bankruptcy. Ogden then collected customs at Jersey City from 1829 until his death. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 744-745.

⁹Colonel John Stevens (1749-1838), a prominent resident of New York and New Jersey, was Robert Livingston's brother-in-law (see 1812, n. 59). After serving in the Revolutionary War and as surveyor general for the eastern division of New Jersey, Stevens devoted his life to experimenting with steam engines and steam-powered transportation. Stevens became one of Fulton's major competitors in the steamship business, and he detested the monopoly Fulton held that barred all other steam-propelled craft from the Hudson River and New York waters. Although Stevens never directly challenged this monopoly in court, he never wasted an opportunity to criticize Fulton, his steamships, or the navigation monopoly he held. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 1006-1007; Morgan, *Robert Fulton*, 120-123, 137-138, 161-165, 183, 187-188, 207, 208; Dickinson, *Robert Fulton*, 238-239, 243.

¹⁰The dispute referred to here revolved around a steamship/navigation monopoly held by Robert Fulton and Robert Livingston that stopped other steamship operators from using New York waterways. Ogden wanted to operate a steam ferry between New Jersey and New York, however, and he was determined to overturn the monopoly. Fulton and Livingston had obtained their monopoly from New York in 1808 when the state ruled that it had sole jurisdiction over the Hudson River, although this was a boundary held in common with New Jersey. The New Jersey legislature denied the legality of the New York claim and a number of legislative battles occurred between the two states, one of which was precipitated by Ogden. Ogden had unsuccessfully petitioned the New York legislature to repeal

I have been assured by the Secretary at war (Mars the 44th) with whom by some means I have become a great favorite, That the moment the staff appointment in Norfolk that is wished for shall become vacant, "Captain Blount Shall be thought of"

Was I in Washington to lay that passage of your letter before the secretary of the navy¹¹ with whom I am intimate I am convinced he would grant what you wish, but Gautier¹² is not liked by any means therefore do not use his name to them, Commodore Dent commands that station, and his recommendation would be of use—

I am truly grateful for your efforts with General (3) Smith,¹³ but he is really such a strange unaccountable man and the price he asks is so much above the intrinsic value of the land or its local advantages, which can be made as great about half a mile South of his claim and for one twentieth part of the enormous sum that he asks that I will decline but very respectfully any farther negotiation with him on that subject—

I shall be prepared to sit down in part upon a farm and go to salt making as soon as M^{rs} Blounts health shall have permitted you to go abroad & make the necessary arrangements

M^r Bowden I presume has ere now been with you—I am Respectfully & Most Sincerely Dear Sir

Your Most Obed^t Serv^t
John Dev^x De Lacy

the Fulton-Livingston monopoly on the grounds that Fulton's invention was not original and used other men's technology. Later, as governor of New Jersey, Ogden instructed the state legislature to grant him a navigation monopoly over New Jersey waters to checkmate the Fulton-Livingston interests. The New Jersey legislature issued Ogden's monopoly in 1813, but the Livingston political and social ties within the state forced the rescission of the monopoly in 1815. Worried about the legality of the monopoly himself, Fulton then purchased Ogden's future cooperation by selling him the rights to the ferry trade for a period of ten years. Another challenge to the monopoly led to a Supreme Court decision in 1824 (*Gibbons v. Ogden*) that held that the New York law violated the constitutional powers and laws of the federal government and was therefore invalid. Morgan, *Robert Fulton*, 136, 161-165, 171-174, 178-188, 201, 208-210; Dickinson, *Robert Fulton*, 229, 240, 243-246, 248-254.

¹¹William Jones (1760-1831) was secretary of the navy from January 12, 1813, to December 2, 1814. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During the Revolutionary War he saw both military and naval combat. In the Seventh Congress he represented a Pennsylvania constituency in the House of Representatives. From 1816 through 1819 he was president of the Bank of the United States. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1208; *Who Was Who*, 285.

¹²This is probably a reference to Thomas N. Gautier, the naval officer in charge of North Carolina's coastal defenses during the War of 1812. An experienced seaman who received a commission as sailing master in 1812, Gautier was allotted merely six gunboats to defend the state, a fact he bitterly bemoaned. He was particularly concerned when his small flotilla was ordered to return to Wilmington in 1813 for an indefinite period. Finally, in October, 1814, Gautier received word to return to patrolling the Carolina coast. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 41-42, 73-74, 135.

¹³This reference could be to General Samuel Smith, the United States senator from Maryland who commanded the land and sea forces that defended Baltimore against the British during the War of 1812. *DAB*, XVII, 341. Also see 1810, n. 11.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Post Master
Washington
North Carolina

per Steam Boat
to New York

*John Strother*¹⁴ to [*John Gray Blount?*]

NASHVILLE April 26th 1814

Dear Sir

My long silence has been owing to my being attached to the southern army since the 25th of September last—previous to my engaging in that service I had put all my agency & other business in such train that my friends would not have experianced any considerable inconvenience if the fate of war had proved inauspicious to me—and indeed I did not expect the campaign would have lasted more than three months when I first engaged in it—but a variety of causes among which the want of provisions was by no means the least conspicuous, hath spun it out to the present time—Late information not official, tho relyed on states that the armies from the Mississippia Territory, Georgia & from this State have consenetrated at the hickory ground near the confluence of the Tallapoosa & Coosa rivers—that there is 2000 regular troops in the field & that the Militia is or will be shortly discharged also that the hostile creek Indians have offered unqualified submission—if this report is true Gen^l Jackson with the Militia of this state will return to their homes in the fore part of the next month—¹⁵

This creek war with the scarcity of Cash, and restrictive laws of the Gen^l government has compleatly put down the sales of lands in the West end of this state—I sold last summer (2) the lower part of the Campen tract, which included all the good land unsold in that survey—the money

¹⁴For John Strother see 1804, n. 3.

¹⁵Andrew Jackson, on March 27, 1814, attacked and defeated the major encampment of hostile Creek Indians at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River in Alabama. Jackson's victory broke the Creek Indians' strength, and the Treaty of Fort Jackson, which officially ended the war, forced the Creeks to cede two thirds of their land to the United States and removed them from the southern areas of Georgia and Alabama. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 111-114; Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 148; Wayne Andrews (ed.), *Concise Dictionary of American History* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1962), 261, hereinafter cited as Andrews, *Concise Dictionary of American History*.

will I hope be paid in time to meet direct & other Taxes which is high in this State and will be hard to raise—so soon after I can obtain a list of the Valuations of your lands I will transmit it to you—in some cases they are high, in others, moderate enough—I left last summer in the hands of the Governor¹⁶ for his remarks, a list of all the warrants, & their disposition so far as I could ascertain facts—which I had any account of as your property or presumptive property. since my return from the army he informs me that he still has the list, & had forgot either to make his remarks—or transmit it to you for your further remarks—The list, or copies of your lands sold and unsold in this quarter which I long since promised to transmit to you is in the same situation as the list of Warrants—both those list I will, so soon after I am done attending to the direct Tax Valuations, transmit to you with such remarks as I may at the time be in possession of—This I should have attended to last fall, but for the Itching inclination which I had to engage in the campaign against the creek indians & on their country—their country—I am not fond of it is generally poor—nor am I fond of fighting the red rascals—however I confess that I am gratified (3) that I did go, and am highly pleased with the result—for surely no general ever fought Indians with more success & honor to himself & country than General Jackson has done, his mode of fighting is a charge which they cannot stand, notwithstanding they fight with an enthusiasm bordering on desperation—The last brilliant action he had with them I am sorry I had not the pleasure of participating in—I think it will surely put an end to the War with the poor deluded rascals & bring them to unqualified submission as report states—

I wrote you last summer on the subject of the suits respecting the 7200 acre tract, have never received an answer—your affidavit respecting the loss of the grant must again be transmitted to me— it is indispensable—

Perhaps the war with the Creek Indians will dictate to the Gen^l Government the good policy of purchasing & settling the country between the Tennessee & Mississippi & thereby cut off the communications between the Northern & Southern Indians—In this event M^r Harris's private Notes of surveys in that country would be of service to me—In his life time he promised to send me a copy, will you try & procure one—The heirs of Harris in this quarter appears not to know what to do with respect to the real Estate of E. Harris¹⁷ to the Eastward, I think (4) they might be dealt with advantageously by buying them out individually—this you can think on, & if you deem it proper—give me instructions thereon? I discover that some persons from N^o Carolina has by letter of-

¹⁶Willie Blount served as governor of Tennessee from 1809 to 1815. See 1803, n. 33; Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 85.

¹⁷For Edward Harris see 1803, n. 11.

ferred the heirs their agency & from what W^m Harris¹⁸ tells me, cautioned them against you—this letter I am to see in the next month, its contents Harris says when I see it I may communicate to you

If you know where Cap^t F.S.B. is, will you know of him whether or not he will take \$1600 Dollars for speculation, one half paid down, the other half in Nine & 18 month this offer I have had made to me for it & I think it is its Value—but how he wishes me to arrange with the heirs of Sam^l M^cCulloch for their interest in it, is what I am at a loss for—adeu—my best wishes to M^{rs} Blount & family & believe me with sentiments of due respect y^r Ob^t

servant John Strother

[No address]

John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount

N. Y. May the 22nd 1814

John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir ·

My letter to you from Albany remaining unanswered induces me to fear that M^{rs} Blounts health is not as yet restored, if such should be the case (which I would regret extremely) had you not better try the air and spa's of this state this approaching summer and autumn both for yourself and M^{rs} Blount, as I should hope the most salutary results from it for both, and Indeed I must confess to you candidly my dear Sir my conviction that you stand nearly in as great need of it yourself as M^{rs} Blount and I should hope that you would be so completely renovated by it that you would for a long time afterwards enjoy uninterrupted good health; both of you; which that you may do whether you come or not, is my earnest wish and prayer—

As I have not heard from M^r Bowden for a length of time, nor from you; do I beg of you, let me know if he has been as yet to visit you and Shell Castle, and what prospect of my farm and salt works &c &c—

(2) You no doubt have seen and heard of the attack of M^r Ogden late Gov^r of New Jersey upon M^r Fultons State and patent rights,¹⁹ in both of which he was completely defeated and the questions set forever at rest as

¹⁸William Harris was possibly a relative of Edward Harris.

¹⁹For information on this controversy see 1814, nn. 8, 9, 10.

it regards M^r Fultons rights and claims. but there is a sequel to the business that is particularly unfortunate for Governor Ogden, for besides his Boat that cost them Twenty one thousand Dollars being forfeited to the Patentees, Fulton has had him arrested on an action on the Case & held to Bail in Fifty thousand Dollars which will effectually ruin Ogden, nor will he be pitied, neither is he entitled to any sympathy as he has brought it on himself having embarked on the business in defiance of the existing Laws and with his eyes open to the risks he ran determined to break down all barriers relying upon his family and party influences, so much was his cupidity—inflamed and his avarice excited, however the business has ultimately resulted in his complete overthrow, and in giving the state of New York to the Administration, so much was the attempt condemned by the thinking men of both parties. Tho it was and is said that the leaders of the a part of the Federal party here had promised to compensate (3) him with a slice of the steam Boat revenues and privileges—provided he declined accepting the Major Generalship from the present Administration, however this I give you as hearsay tho I have heard it asserted in positive terms by men that I know to be respectable, but I think warped somewhat by their interests for myself tho a decided peace man as you know, I detest the attempt to deprive Fulton of his well earned rights in such an unprincipled way. and to say the truth it was somewhat doubtful for some time for when I arrived here it had gone against Fulton in the Lower House and was then pending before the Senate, but fortunately I got the affidavits of M^r Eaken the District [illegible] and of John Fitch²⁰ of this City and went post with them to Albany and set the thing at rest I hope forever—

M^r Fulton has agreed in opinion with me that it is best to build all the boats for the Southward, in North Carolina, this from the Colony of Able and experienced Artists that must be employed will be a great acquisition to the state, but the want of Competent Iron works is a great obstacle. do let me have your advice by return of Mail as to where you would have them located and whether you would recommend their being estab-

²⁰ John Fitch (1743-1798) was an avid inventor and promoter of steam-powered navigation. Receiving a fourteen-year monopoly from New Jersey for the exclusive operation of steamships in the state's waterways, Fitch formed a steamship company in 1786 and began work on a steamship he successfully launched in 1787. He received further encouragement from other states in the form of monopolies, but his finances remained uncertain. By 1790 he constructed a steamboat that traveled eight miles per hour, and he maintained a regular passenger service on the Delaware River. The company failed, however, because of low profits and public indifference. In 1791 he went to France to promote steamships but was again unsuccessful. He returned to the United States and vainly attempted to promote steam navigation until his death. Fitch died in 1798 leaving a legacy of advanced technology that aided Fulton in his experiments with steamboats. The John Fitch mentioned here was possibly his son. Dickinson, *Robert Fulton*, 129-132; Morgan, *Robert Fulton*, 121, 207; Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 296.

lished by a (4) Company organised with a president and Directors, or by one or two individuals and whom you think would be most likely to embark in it in North Carolina—the Capital necessary to establish it completely would not be great—

Aikin the late tenant in possession at Johnson Hall is dead and his heirs have parcelled it out in small lotts and have advertised it for sale. M^r Emmet says this does not avail M^r Lohra agrees to your proposals. a Memorial has on his part been handed to the Presid^t and favorably Rec^d. I am Respectfully Y^r Most Obed^t

John Dev^x De Lacy

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N. C.

John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK May the 23^d 1814

John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

As the inclosed gives you most of the news I will devote this to my own business, and begin by begging of you to let me know when I can get the Poney from M^r Bradley I would take more good ones could I get them here readily they sell so well—I must also beg of you to let me know how vinegar, Eastern Rum, or plated ware for sadlers or liquors generally would answer, I must also solicit your Patronage and support for a concern in which I am about becoming a Dormant partner to do Such Share of the Southern business on commission in this City as we may get to do, and also favor me with your opinion of it. There is one thing in doing commission business I shall risk nothing, and I shall not be tied down to it as I must be in North Carolina in the (2) fall to encounter M^r Stevens and get M^r Fultons claim established there and the steam Boats running—

I have made a purchase here in the City and a most advantageous one for four thousand Dollars that I would not take under six for, but tho Livingston & Fulton owe me Nine thousand and some hundred Dollars still Fulton who is now the acting man is very much embarrassed at present so much so that I do not trouble him for money knowing him to

be perfectly safe—I therefore wish to be doing something and if you could only procure a consignment or two however small the vessels or whatever the Cargo to myself direct it would give me very great importance and weight with Fulton himself, and would so completely establish me in this City at this time that I could command whatever Credit I pleased either for myself or freinds so high have I risen in the estimation of my fellow Citizens (3) that there is but such a thing wanting to me, to establish my credit here and set me at ease for ever, and enable me to do almost whatever I please in a reasonable way in this City. upon this head also I solicit your advice, but I must also inform you that my mind is made up to the not continuing the agent of Livingston & Fulton longer than untill the term for which I engaged shall have expired. I will afterwards be only Fultons agent, for the Livingstons did not do right or honest as it regarded the stock holders in the different Companies tho they approved of my conduct very highly and of this I have given M^r Fulton notice who is not displeased about it I am well convinced—

There is a man here who is Setting up a distillery by steam at Brooklyn on M^r Rodmans place pretty much the Boiler is of wood lined with Iron, and the water is contained between the wood and the lining of Iron in which the fire is kept—the form is Cylyndrical partaking of the cone—They have one already at work at Utica that I am told answers extremely well, it is putting up, and is in use for a man of the name of John C Devereux²¹ and it is said answers a very good purpose being a great saving in time, fuel, and duties,—I am anxious to be making salt, tho I shall have the superintendence of the Iron works Boat building &c in N.C. as soon as you can recommend a suitable site for the works on some navigable stream with water and fall enough to work the machinery (4) I will also beg of you to let me know if you think that good Brigs well found and sea worthy could be purchased at present in North Carolina on Bills upon a good House in this City at 12 months or six months after date—As a particular friend of mine & wealthy man has papers by him that of course would answer to neutralize them, and if so; if Cargoes of North Carolina produce can be purchased in the same way, if so and that you will not undertake it yourself, I beg of you to recommend a suitable person for it, and also favor me with the prices of North Carolina produce at present, Spirits of turpentine and white oak staves are high

²¹John C. Devereux (1774-1848) was born in Ireland and emigrated to New York in 1797. By 1802 he had opened a store in Utica. In 1840 Devereux served as mayor of that city. In conjunction with his brother Nicholas Devereux, a wealthy merchant, banker, and philanthropist of Utica, John Devereux founded a savings bank in the city. *Who Was Who*, 216.

here now. I wish one or two vessels of the sire of M^r Ross's little ones would slip round with Cargoes of those articles consigned to

Dear Sir Respectfully Your Most Obed^t. Serv^t
John Dev^x De Lacy

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N. C.

Jacob Swindell²² to John Gray Blount

ROSE BAY TURNPIKE [June 14, 1814]

Dear Sir This make the Third Time I have To You and Shuld have and have Seen you my Self from Coart but I under Stud that you was coming down and my wish is for you to have passhence with m[e] a Lit-tel Longer I am indevering to make you a payment as Soon as I Can and wish to know whether you will take nots of hand in part or not I Can git note when I Cant git money I Shall have Six or Seven good Beeves that I Can Spare as Soon as Beef gits fat I hope that it will be in my power to pay you all that I do owe this fall for I am deturm'd to be out of det or own no probtey So I yours

with Respect
Jacob Swindell

June 14th day 1814
M^r John G Blunt

Addressed: M^r John G Blunt Eq^r
Washington

John Strother to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE June 14th 1814

D^r Sir

M^r James & Sam^l Harris is now with me on the subject of your proposition about Edw^d Harris's real Estate in North Carolina—They state

²²For Jacob Swindell see 1805, n. 23.

that so far as respects themselves, they feel a disposition to accept the offer of ten thousand Dollars for their Brothers real Estate in North Carolina subject to the Widows dower & the debts yet due by the Estate & whatever balance after paying the debts may be due to the heirs they are willing to take in lands here agreeable to your proposition—but they State that they will before they act definately consult with the rest of the heirs, & if they feel disposed to do as they themselves to wit Jas. & Sam—are willing to do—that so soon after the determination of the rest are known they will communicate to me the result—some of their heirs live in Kentuckey some, in Louisanna & some in North Carolina—one is dead & his heirs except two are minors—In the mean time they request that you will not suffer the land to be sacraficed for the Taxes—as respects Judgments they apprehend that none can be legally obtained untill after the heirs are Known, & they state that the minor heirs they themselves at (2) this time are unacquainted with, but will as soon as in their power know them & give me a final answer to your propositions—

The federal court is now in cession I have never received your deposition requested in a former letter I have rec^d a copy of the grant, the fees are two Dollars, which you will please pay M^r Hill—what I am to do when the trial comes on I cannot at present say but the event of it—I feel as sanguine in as ever—on a Jury of view more was discovered by the pl^{tf}'s they wanted, & to my mind enough to convince the surveyor, that where they want to establish the land he never surveyed it notwithstanding lines & corners sufficiently ancient & corresponding with the calls of the grant they shew but the Waters are not such as the location & grant recognizes—I am obliged to attend court & am much hurried, I'll write more fully after court—my best wishes attend you, my com^{ts}, to M^{rs} Blount & family & believe me respectfully your

M^o Ob^t H^{um} Serv^t
John Strother

M^r Harris's will write to you shortly—

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Post Master
Washington
N^o Carolina

Mail

*John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount*N. Y. June the 14th 1814John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

By a letter received from M^r Bowden dated the 5th Ins^t I find he has been prevented visiting you hitherto in consequence of two important law suits, one of them being of no less interest than to determine whether he had or had not a right to draw off and use his own water when and how he pleased which has been decided in his favor—about the close of this month or the beginning of next he contemplates being with you untill when I will beg of you to postpone the Sale of Shell Castle as I am anxious that he should be interested there, if he does not visit you by that time, I will dispose of it here for you, as there will be but three shares to dispose of upon the plan I contemplated placing it, that of having it in five shares of eight thousand Dollars each so as to make the \$40,000 required by you as the price of that place and all its appendages to be paid by instalments as agreed to by you—

Of this Thomas Addes Emmett Esq^r takes one share (2) upon these terms and I take another which makes two shares or \$16,000, consequently there remains but three shares of \$24,000 which I can immediately get here, but that I wish M^r Bowden interested there as I well know that his enterprise and Capital with my own perseverance and industry, and the aid we should receive from any others that would be interested as well as from you would give an importance to that place and to North Carolina generally if it received only moderate legislative encouragement and patronage, that would rival some of the Ports on which North Carolina is at present dependent—

Let me know if there is as yet any chance of the site for the Salt works and farm, as I could now send a most valuable man & his wife as farmer & Gardiner if I had it. With best wishes for the speedy restoration of M^{rs} Blounts health, and for the welfare of all your family I am Respectfully

Dear Sir

Your Most Obed^t Serv^tJohn Dev^x De Lacy

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N. C.

*John Fries to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a July 9 1814

John G Blount Esqr

Sir

I am under the Necessity of troubling you again on account of the Tax payable on the Land & Swamp lately W^m Shannons,²³ I wrote to Slade Pearce Esqr²⁴ the 14th of May last on this Subject but as yet Rec'd no Answer. Ill thank you to ascertain the amount of tax for 1813 from your Present Sheriff, and let me know it as soon as Possible that I may remit the money before any expence accrues, or If the Sheriff Could make it convenient to draw on me for the amount of the tax would be more agreeable and his draft shall be paid at sight—

last year this Land was Sold by the Sheriff before the time I usually sent the money to the late Sheriff Slade Pearce, I wish to pay the Tax this year without any additional expence if it can be done with your kind assistance Please to let me hear from you soon

I am very Respectfully
yrs &c John Fries

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr
Postmaster at
Washington
North Carolina

*John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA July the 21st 1814John G Blount Esqr^r

Dear Sir

Business of the patentees having brought me for a few days to this place and not having heard that M^r Bowden had visited Shell Castle as he had promised I endeavoured to make such arrangm^{ts} relative to it as

²³For William Shannon see 1803, n. 19.

²⁴Slade Pearce is listed in the 1820 census as head of a household containing five males and three females. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 33.

would come up to the terms you proposed it, on, to me and promote my views on it, and I am now enable to say to you with confidence that I will take it on my own acc^t on the terms you stated to me, namely one instalment to be paid as soon as the Titles shall have been legally perfected and the residue at such convenient times as we shall agree on. The surplus to be secured by Mortgage on the property, and you to put the Houses wharfs Side in good order—To this I must request your immediate answer for should you agree with me the Castle will yet flourish as I shall get the aid and patronage of one of the most respectable merch^{ts} in the United States who will I believe move thither—

I will also repeat my request to you to look out for a good farm for me that I can sit down upon and improve in my own way—

With best respects to the whole of your family and all friends I am Respectfully

Dear Sir

Your Most Obed^t Serv^t

John Dev^x De Lacy

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Pleasant M. Miller to [John Gray Blount?]

KNOXVILLE July 28th 1814

DSir

It appears that there are two tracts of land in West Tennessee now in the Heirs of William Blount being William Blounts at his death from any thing that appears, there are Judgments against William on which I Presume they can be sold, it is suggested that they belong to you, by the inclosed letter, as it respects one of the tracts, perhaps if they do the title had better remain in the Heirs for the purpose of advoiding the Statute These tracts are valuable, & can be secured to the Heirs if you have no claim to them, I wish to Know that fact—Major Dixon²⁵ told me in June that there was a tract of Land near him which was like to be lost or perhaps was lost by Neglect in not suing in time—it may however be the tract alluded to in the inclosed letter—I do suppose it probable that your interest may be suffering in that quarter altho I do not Know that it is

²⁵ This might be a reference to Tilman Dixon, a Tennessee land speculator. Land Warrants 1403, 1405, 1518, and 1519, Tennessee State Archives.

so—as it respects Strothers trade with Erwin²⁶ you can Judge—the reason why the Judgment was not revived, was, that it never could be made a specific lien on the land, & under Allisons will his lands were only equitable assets—& as such they could not be affected by the revival, in equity also all creditors come in (2) in equal proportions according to their respective amt^s besides no Judgment can be a lien on Lands beyond the Jurisdiction of the court in which Judgment is obtained. M^r Erwin therefore will have all the benefits of the Judgment that he would have had if the same had been revived, As I believe I know nothing of their bargain more than the within letter discloses. My family are all well Barbara & Eliza are here & well. We have nothing new—pray sir what part of the play will the British act,²⁷ will they not pay the Southern cost a visit & set your negroes by the cain—or is it not more probable that they will in conjunction with the Spaniards Visit the Mississippi, if they do it is inevitably gone—they have a party there—& when connected with the Blacks—who are unquestionably the worst [?] in the United States they must go—the Western people cannot be got their on account of the Climate—will not the Eastern states be gone first by depriving the union of that portion the United States—

I am D Sir
Pleasant M Miller

[No address]

John Fries to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a August 24th 1814

J G Blount Esqr

Sir

I duly Rec'd your Letter of the 6th Inst informing me that the tax for 1813 on the Lands & Swamp late W^m Shannon is 105 Drs 29 Cents—I re-

²⁶For Andrew Erwin see 1810, n. 27.

²⁷The British offensive planned in 1814 included a massive invasion of the United States from the Gulf of Mexico, but General Andrew Jackson was not sure whether the main point of attack would be Pensacola, Mobile, or New Orleans. Jackson's movements had the fortuitous effect of thwarting the British design, which ultimately turned out to be the capture of New Orleans. Miller's reference to the Spaniards and blacks might have been prompted by the fact that the Spaniards established a "Negro fort" in Florida during the war and enticed runaway slaves to take refuge there. By 1816 there were about 250 blacks at the fort, but in that same year General Edmund P. Gaines blew up the fort, killing 270 persons. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 236-245, 344-345. Also see 1814, n. 54.

mitted to the Sheriff Allen Griest²⁸ on the 12 August 1814 the half of a 100 Dr note and one 10 Dr note both of State Bank of North Carolina and on the 16th Same Month Sent on the other half of the 100 Dr note I hope they all got to his hands safe

I observe that a Direct Tax is also to be Collected I was in hopes that State had Assumed the payment of it (as Pennsylvania did) and as the tax for 1813 is almost double to what it was for 1812 favored the Idea much. Please to inform the Sheriff or any other Person who has the Collecting of it to let me know the Amount of the direct Tax and Ill forward the money Immediately

I am with due Respect
Yrs &c John Fries

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr
Postmaster at
Washington
North Carolina

William Augustus Blount to Thomas H. Blount

FORT JOHNSON S.C. August 31st 1814

Dear Brother

It is with pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you—I prize it highly—to correspond with my Brother is always a source of gratification to me—and if I were capable of making an exact representation of my situation which can only be done by comparison, I think you would not willingly withhold, any thing has a tendency to stimulate and console me in my misfortunes—I mean in my unenviable situation as a military man—shut up in an obscure garrison—but dialy exposed to imminent danger—threatened some times with immediate dissolution by the all powerful Sand flies and blood thirsty mosquitoes—but not a Laurel reaped—and this too when my brothers in arms and driving triumphantly before them the enemy—Gathering Laurels promiscuously as they pass—The natives bursting forth applause and justly, for their success—Yes the administration oppressing them with brevets—the attain-

²⁸Allen Grist was a prominent citizen of Beaufort County. He helped found the Bank of Washington. Reed, *Beaufort County*, 112.

ment of which is at once the price and the Glory of the Soldier—Under such circumstances do I not need a stimulous? You may consider me wild fanciful and enthusiastic, but what man is there who entered the service with my intention and expectations under such circumstances, could be otherwise but I am a Soldier—to murmur is a prostitution of subordination—pardon this digression from my intended Subject—

As you ask it I shall not make myself uneasy about the money I borrowed of you, but I can not help feeling mortified, chagrined at not having (2) remitted it long since—but I have no Idea of considering it my own—I have already been an expense to you. And I Know that your money is with you as well spent by a Brother as Self upon the Whole. I have no use for it, and if I had my delicacy should not get the better or ascendancy Over my Necessates—In a few days I shall receive it from the P. M. Gen^l and will remit it—Since the receipt of your letter I have been making use of all my address with Doc^r Hill of our Reg^t, to get his puppy a match, brother of Roller's but it has proved ineffectual—shall however procure for you one shortly, to equal if not surpass the Cap^{ts} highly prized pet—Oh! What a misfortune! What a depravity of taste! that man should prefer a spaniel Pup—to a prattling *Babe*— Ask my Sister what Pet I shall procure for her— I am surprised. no mortified to hear that Grist, Williams and Boyd²⁹ are the Beaufort representatives—but indeed you deserve it—I suspect the only difference in your Candidats is their profession about Politics which is enough—they may vote right—but I think you should at a time like this send, as could be done, Firm and enlightened *Republicans*. I have the command of 107 aggregate—a fully compy a part of that Number the Men commanded by My Brother—I have a company mostly enlisted by self. if they have an opportunity—they will neither Lessen the Standing of their officer nor disgrace their State—My Love to Sister and the family

yours Sincerely—
Will A. Blount

Addressed: Tho^s H. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N. Carolina

²⁹This is a reference to Reading Grist, who served as a Beaufort County senator from 1814 through 1816. See 1812, n. 54. James O.K. Williams was a state representative from 1814 to 1816 and a state senator from 1822 to 1828 and from 1831 to 1838. See 1813, n. 11; Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 265, 267, 269, 279, 283, 285, 286, 288, 290, 303, 305, 308, 310. George Boyd represented Beaufort County in the House of Commons in 1812 and again in 1814. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 262, 265.

William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount

[August, 1814]

Dear Father,

Your letter of the 26th July I have received and the enclosed bill, which was at this time a very pleasant sight; M^r Champlain³⁰ the D^s Pay Master has just returned from the City. he went on to procure money to pay of the troops in this district. some of them now 8 months others 5 since paid, he has not brought one Farthing, no does he Know when he will get it, he says he expects its arrival any moment, I fear the funds are low, and that the conducters and governors of our Military affairs, are destitute of the necessary abilities to remove the many obstacles in the way of success, and dissipate the impending cloud of destruction which now hover over us—

I anticipated and was fearful of the result of my application, as I was too sensible of the difficulty to change the situation of an officer in an army where there is any thing like discipline, or where the army is regulated by men of military capacity, but in ours, judging from circumstances which have occurred, I entertained a just hope of success—I am however from your advice satisfied with my situation, and will console myself with this hope. That the government will in long remove the sill, which obstructs the sight, and obscures the means, which would bring this War to a happy Issue, they will discover the Necessity and concentrate the regular Forces on the lakes—& call out the Militia for the protection of our Sea ports, and never suffer them for a moment to be invaders—I have by accident become acquainted with some gentlemen who evince a disposition to contribute to the completion of the happiness or contentment of the officer (2) who is desirous of becoming perfect in his profession—these are members of the Charleston Library Society.³¹ they have very politely offered me the use of any books in their library which are valuable. I accepted and am happy to inform you that when off duty, I devote my time, to the reading of such books as are calculated

³⁰This might refer to Lieutenant Samuel Champlin, the deputy assistant quartermaster in Charleston. Champlin, in addition to his quartermaster position, held so many other offices that complaints were made to General Thomas Pinckney about Champlin's inefficiency and lack of performance. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 31.

³¹The Charleston Library Society was organized in 1748 by a group of the city's young men. It was authorized to acquire British pamphlets, magazines, and books. Some of its holdings were destroyed by fire in 1778, but the institution is still in existence. David Duncan Wallace, *South Carolina: A Short History* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1951), 198, 471, 477.

to make me a proficient in my profession and to enlarge my limited understanding. Cap^t Kenan of this regiment has been promoted to a majority and I believe my Brother is the first on the list for promotion. Lt^s Maggen and the col^l adjutant Hamilton³² have both been promoted and I believe I am first on the list for promotion; Col^l Drayton³³ offered me the adjutancy but I declined accepting. In the Army as at court every thing is done by favours: I will only remark that the Government or rather the President and Secretary of War hold out to the army one principle of promotion and act upon another. I Know this myself, but as I serve the administration I will not disclose it, the consequences would be fatal for nine tenths of the officers in the service would resign, if they Knew the manner the rank is decided The encampment at P^t Pitn is, by order of the Secretary of War broken up and I believe a large proportion of the troops are ordered to this harbour, the ballance I am told will be stationed at Savannah—

Col^l Drayton informed me a few days since that he should order in all the officers, who are recruiters, and send others, who had more the interest of their country at heart recruiting, from this I think it very probable I shall be one among the number ordered. if so I presume it will be the last of Sep^r or 1st October [illegible] to M^r Guillard³⁴ a senator from this state, requesting him to make exertions, to have this regiment ordered to the North, the Secretary very politely observed that although this was one of the best disciplined regiments in the service, it must remain where it is until the (3) regiments for the protection of the Coast were raised—I have not heard from my Brother John in several Weeks, I wrote to him a few days ago, supposing him to be with the general on Lake George. give my love to Mama and the family and say to them I Will write them in a

³²Lieutenant Colonel William S. Hamilton was assigned to the Third Regiment and ordered to North Carolina to recruit a rifle corps. He was a career army officer and had previously been the assistant inspector general and a major in the Tenth Regiment. His rifle corps was eventually abolished, and the Third Regiment never participated in combat. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 69.

³³William Drayton (1776-1846) was a South Carolina lawyer and politician. He served in the state legislature from 1806 to 1808 and also served as a judge and as a United States congressman. Drayton later declined two federal appointments, one as secretary of war and the other as minister to England under Jackson. Drayton opposed the 'pronullification stance adopted by South Carolina in 1830, and in 1833 he moved to Philadelphia, where he assumed the presidency of the Bank of the United States for two years. During the War of 1812, Drayton was commissioned lieutenant colonel in the Tenth Infantry Regiment, United States Army. He later was promoted to colonel and commanded the Eighteenth Infantry Regiment. Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 57; *Who Was Who*, 225.

³⁴John Gaillard (1765-1826) represented South Carolina in the United States Senate from 1804 to 1826 and served as pro tempore of the Senate at different times. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 979.

few days, by 1^t Col^l White³⁵ who is ordered to take command at Fort Hampton

Your affectionate and dutiful Son
Will A. Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Sen^r Esq^r
Washington
N. Carolina

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH Oct^o 6th 1814

The warrant for 1600 acres issued to John Allen³⁶ is in the office, and there is filed with it a certificate of survey indicating that a Grant had issued on it; though after closely examining the books none could be found on record—From some conversation I had with the Secty. on the subject I suppose it will be necessary to make application to the Legislature before it can be taken out of the Office—On enquiry I can find no claim of yours against the state for services rendered &^c except one for oak plank furnished, amounting to one dollar & some cents, which has been allowed. If there should be others, M^r Leroy can say how he disposed of them—H. Dickenson died two days since—

Please present my love to the Family

I am affectionately your Ob^t
J. G Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

M^r Stewart

³⁵ For Benajah White see 1812, n. 51.

³⁶ John Allen enlisted as a lieutenant in the North Carolina Continental Line on October 1, 1776. Allen died in September, 1780, while still in the military service. He was in Caswell's Company, Fifth Regiment. Fifth Regiment, Register of the North Carolina Continental Line.

William Kennedy to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON CITY 23^d Oct^r 1814

D^r Sir

I this moment got a letter from Governor Worthington³⁷ inclosing a receipt of W Hinde, for the money you forwarded to me for him which you will here with receive

We have no late news from our ministers at Ghent,³⁸ nothing since the dispatches which have been published and no doubt you have Seen long Since

The tax bills³⁹ are rapidly progressing The one to lay and collect a direct Tax of Six Millions of dollars passed the house of representatives yesterday by a large majority. This is a prodigious large Sum to be collected by a direct tax in one year and I seriously fear, in the present state of our country without trade, and of course (2) without the possibility of Selling our Surplus produce unless at great Sacrifice; it cannot be paid without uncommon inconvenience to the people, and particularly to those of North Carolina, where very little of the public money is expended; I endeavoured to reduce it but without effect; the most objectionable part however was the pledge of its continuance, for the redemption of the public debt until congress should substitute other taxes or duties equally as productive, which I conceived a mortgage of all the lands in the country for that purpose, and I feared an entailment of the tax not only upon ourselves but upon our children after us Under those and other considerations I voted against the bill.

³⁷For Thomas Worthington of Ohio see 1803, n. 88.

³⁸In November, 1813, the British Foreign Office proposed to the United States that the two nations enter into direct negotiations for peace. President Madison accepted the proposal and named John Quincy Adams, James Bayard, Henry Clay, Albert Gallatin, and Jonathan Russell to represent the United States at the peace talks. The Flemish town of Ghent was selected as the site for the negotiations. Bailey, *Diplomatic History*, 149.

³⁹Heavy borrowing by the government brought the debt of the United States to \$127,335,000 during the war. Before the war annual expenditures ran about eleven million dollars; by 1814 they were running about thirty-five million. Consequently, in 1814 Congress increased tariff rates, doubled the tax of 1813 on land, dwelling houses, and slaves, and increased the number of items subject to internal revenue. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 529.

The Hartford convention⁴⁰ has met; appointed their Chairman a Mr Cabbot⁴¹ and also three chaplains, Nothing of their (3) measures have transpired so as to com to my knowledge. indeed I have understood from a member of congress who has received a letter from one of the delegates that they consider it important that their measures should be conducted in Secret very respectfully I am your Obed^t Servant

William Kennedy

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N Carolina

Willie Blount to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE Oct^r 26th 1814

Dear Sir,

I have only a moments leisure to drop you a line by Major Harmon who is about to Start to Washington—I am so engaged getting Troops into the Service and in making the necessary arrangements for their

⁴⁰The Hartford Convention, composed of Federalists opposed to Madison's administration and the war and of New England mercantile interests hurt by trade dislocations and westward expansion, met in Hartford, Connecticut, to assess their problems. Delegates from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and individuals from Vermont and New Hampshire attended the meetings held in secret sessions from December, 1814, to January 5, 1815. Their announced intention was to propose amendments to the Constitution that would promote and protect New England's political dominance and industry. In addition to trade and militia regulations, the delegates advocated constitutional controls that would limit the South's political power, trade embargoes, declarations of war, the admission of new states to the Union, and officeholding opportunities for naturalized citizens. The Hartford Convention delegates displayed a distinct sectional bias, and their proceedings were widely denounced in other parts of the country as unwarranted and possibly treasonable. Andrews, *Concise Dictionary of American History*, 422; Henry Adams, *History of the United States during the Administrations of Jefferson and Madison* (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., Abridged Edition, 1964), 134-144, hereinafter cited as Adams, *History of the United States*.

⁴¹George Cabot (1752-1823), chairman of the Massachusetts delegation to the Hartford Convention, was chosen president of the convention on December 15, 1814. Adams, *History of the United States*, 136-137. Cabot was a prominent Massachusetts merchant and politician who held strong Federalist views and deeply opposed Jeffersonian-Republicanism. He served as a United States senator from 1791 to 1796 and maintained a pro-British attitude throughout the period of controversy preceding the War of 1812. Nevertheless, Cabot attempted to control the more radical elements participating in the Hartford Convention. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 134.

equipment for their march to New Orleans to meet Lord Hill⁴² if he should be fool enough to attack that place that I have no time to write you about business of yours which of late years has been entirely transacted by Major Strother—The war has so multiplied executive duties that I am kept almost constantly employed about what relates to the prosecution of it—This State has a conspicuous part to act as all the lower Country has necessarily to look this way in the first outset of any difficulty for momentary relief or aid as to defence—Kentuckey our neighbour is a good helpmate in such cases—Tenn. has upwards of 6000 men now in the field and 5000 more are to rendezvous on the 13th Nov. at Nashville & Knoxville thence to proceed without delay to Orleans to act under Gen^l Jackson's orders—2500 men for the same services are ordered from Kentuckey—if all these Troops get down in time Jackson will flirt Lord Hill into the Sea again—he will deal with him in the measure of short metre. This detachment from Tenn. will be commanded by Major Gen^l Carroll⁴³ who has in all proper ways distinguished himself as an officer (2) of merit & bravery—He is not only brave but is also a tactician—M^{rs} Baker has been very like to die this fall & was so when I left home two weeks ago—She has however gotten much better so much so as to be considered in a fair way to recover—My family are well as were our Knoxville friends a few days ago—Rich^d ⁴⁴ was yesterday to be married to a Miss Kitty Minor of Montgomery County—She is a fine Girl—M^r Minor lives six or eight miles from Rich^d—William requests me to say to you that he will send to you a map of the Creek Country to be compiled by Strother soon from his Notes taken when acting with Gen^l Jackson as Topographical engineer—he was in hopes to have had it ready by this time as he wished to send it by Major Harmon—William requests that you will cause his taxes to be paid on 1000 acres of land on Alligator Bay in Onslow County if it has not been sold for the taxes since the death of Judge Wright—He has empowered M^r John Owen⁴⁵ to pay

⁴²Major General Rowland Hill at one point had been in command of the British forces who were scheduled to attack New Orleans from the British West Indies. Governor Blount was obviously not aware that the British ministry had changed the commander for that invasion and appointed Lieutenant General Sir Edward Michael Pakenham to lead the attack. John K. Mahon, *The War of 1812* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1972), 344, 348.

⁴³William Carroll (1788-1844) became a prominent Tennessee soldier and politician. He moved to Tennessee from Pennsylvania around 1810 and participated in the Creek War. He succeeded Andrew Jackson as major general of the Tennessee militia and served under Jackson during the battle of New Orleans. Carroll later served as the Democratic governor of Tennessee, from 1821 to 1827, and from 1829 to 1835. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 147.

⁴⁴For Richard Blount see 1807, n. 30.

⁴⁵This probably refers to Governor John Owen of Bladen County. See 1813, n. 2.

his taxes at Wilmington & gave him money for that purpose—Present me and my family to yours and our friends in terms of affectionate regard and am very affectionately

yours,
Willie Blount

John Gray Blount Esquire

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Hon'd by
Major Harmon

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount

BEACON ISLAND 31st Oct^r 1814

Dear Sir,

Your letter by my boat was rec^d Yesterday and the articles sent by her—

In my trunk of papers in your office are [illegible] papers and I believe by themselves unless tied up with my Uncle's you will if you please examine & deliver to M^r Russworn all such as you may think he ought to have—

M^{rs} Blount⁴⁶ also wishes a Copy of her father's will which is among my Uncles papers, send that also—my Mother has the key of the trunk—

I have mentioned the wood to Col. Armistead⁴⁷ and tho' no positive bargain has been made he declines purchasing elsewhere, relying on the supply from Vail—'twill be very (2) precarious, but as yet we have had enough & a supply of two weeks a head—price the same as you offer—

In answer to yours respecting Hall's business, if McNair will C^r Tho. Blount's note with the amt. due in by Hall I will pay the Bank & release my right to the legacy—the pay^t will be as good as I wish—

We are progressing in our Work & think even at this time, a pretty formidable defence could be made, we have on the Island 300 Men 200

⁴⁶The Mrs. Blount referred to could be either Mrs. Reading Blount or Mrs. Thomas Blount.

⁴⁷The reference here is possibly to John Armistead. See 1803, n. 64.

will be here tomorrow—ammunition abundant—so that nothing but courage is wanting, & I flatter myself that will not be wanting—The walls in front are nearly high enough, they will now cover a man to his chin, & we daily add to their height 'twould gratify me very much if in November you could visit us—in the day you could (3) live here well enough, but at night the Castle would have to furnish you with a dry place if it rained—however agreeable to your maxim, close houses are unhealthy—I shall this week get a chimney to my hut & then shall have ended my building—but taking all together I never was more satisfied, as I believe I am becoming daily more healthy.

My love to all the family & am yours &c.

Thos. H. Blount

I engaged about 2000th part of Powell—the man you once bought of for me to be del^d in Dec^r if you see him remind him of it, & if he brings it I will pay, & must request you to have it cured for me—I was to give 5\$—perhaps a Cargo of Salt will arrive here, if so, shall buy for my use—

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

William Kennedy to [John Gray Blount]

WASHINGTON CITY 25^h Nov^r 1814

D^r Sir

Your favour of the 13th Ins^t enclosing a letter to Mess^{rs} Thomas S. Hinde & David Collins agents for non resident Land holders I have received together with \$20 in bank notes, and which agreeably to your request I should have placed in the hands of Governor Worthington, but he left this place for Ohio the day before your letter arrived. It was my intention to have put those papers into the hands of M^r Shannon,⁴⁸ but he referred me to M^r Creighton,⁴⁹ who represents Chillicothe and who is the neighbour of both M^r Hinde and Governor Worthington, that gentleman advised me (2) to forward them immediately to M^r Hinde who he

⁴⁸Thomas Shannon (1786-1843) was an Ohio merchant and politician who served in the Ohio legislature and one term in the United States House of Representatives. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1682.

⁴⁹William Creighton, Jr. (1778-1851), was a member of the United States House of Representatives from Ohio. He served at intervals between 1813 and 1833. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 801.

Said was a worthy and honourable man, upon reflection however I thought it most advisable to forward both letter and money to Governor Worthington with a request that he would take a receipt [illegible] the money and forward it to me at this place. This I did by this days mail and expect to hear from him in the course of about three weeks. I was induced to take this step with your business, as I understood from both of the gentlemen with whom I conversed on the Subject, that unless the money got there in one Month, the taxes would be doubled, it therefor admitted of no delay. Should you have any other business at this place which (3) I could transact for you be so good as to command me merly and it will be done with pleasure.

We have no late news from our Ministers at Ghent. The general opinion is that the negotiations are broken up, and that the war will be continued for Some time to come. There are however some gentlemen of a different opinion, we have had before us the bank bill for nearly a fortnight, and this moment, Calhouns project⁵⁰ is recommitted to a Select committee, with a view as I understand to come to Some compromise with the friends of the first bill on this Subject, it being tolerable well ascertained that it would not Succeed in its last shape.

The ten [manuscript torn] have not been yet finally [manuscript torn] upon, the whole when (4) taken in conjunction with the laws already existing on the Subject of revenue are intended to raise annually about twenty one million of dollars, the plan of prosecuting the war, by loans almost alone seems to be in some measure abandoned, indeed it is a lamentable but serious fact that the treasury is exhausted and I understand from good authority that the President does not hesitate to say that unless congress shortly provides the means the government must stop, indeed this is no secret to any one here, very respectfully I am Sir your Obed^t Servant

William Kennedy

[No address]

⁵⁰Madison's secretary of the treasury, Alexander J. Dallas, proposed the creation of a national bank as an administration measure to finance governmental operations. John C. Calhoun, a member of the House of Representatives from South Carolina, was selected to steer the bill through Congress, but he refused to support the bill as presented by Dallas. Instead, he introduced his own scheme that modified the method for capitalizing the bank. Calhoun's bill was defeated, just as Dallas's had been. Charles M. Wiltse, *John C. Calhoun: Nationalist* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1944), 94-96.

*Willie Blount to John Gray Blount*NASHVILLE Nov. 27th 1814

Dear Sir,

At the request of Judge McNairy⁵¹ who is married to the widow of the late Mark Robertson⁵² I transmit to you via Washington City thro' the Hon'ble Jessie Wharton⁵³ a Senator from this State in Congress, (the most direct route being very uncertain) the inclosed paper for your information of the Judge's claim to lands therein mentioned—I have told the Judge that you are anxious to have all your land business in this Country settled and that upon your receipt of this that I did not doubt but that you would without delay give M^r Strother (who heretofore has written you on the subject) your instructions to settle with the Judge—The Judge is as well as yourself desirous to have that business brought to a close, & he requests me to say that provided it soon can be settled he is quite willing to have it done in any way you may suggest; the mode is indifferent to him—He is desirous to have all his land concerns brought to a close—A few days ago five thousand of the Militia from this State marched under a requisition from the War Dep^t for that number to join Gen^l Jackson who did on the 7th Ins^t take possession of Pensacola by Storm & thereby at the same time made the British blow up their fort at the Baranca, just below Pensacola and depart with a quick Step—the next (2) important movement that we expect to hear of Gen^l Jackson will be that he has repulsed Lord Hill's attack on Louisiana⁵⁴ if he should be simple enough to make such attack as the papers &^c tell us he is about to make—there is upwards of eleven thousand Tennesseans with Gen^l Jackson and on their way to his Head Quarters—there is also between twenty five hundred and three thousand Kentuckians on their way to

⁵¹For Judge John McNairy see 1803, n. 58.

⁵²For Mark Robertson see 1803, n. 59.

⁵³Jesse Wharton (1782-1833), born and reared in Virginia, practiced law in that state until he moved to Tennessee. A successful politician, Wharton served Tennessee in the United States House of Representatives (1807-1809) and in the United States Senate (1814-1815). After leaving the Senate he returned to Tennessee to practice law. He died in Nashville on July 22, 1833. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1904.

⁵⁴In 1814 the British planned a massive invasion of the United States by way of the Gulf of Mexico. They planned to use Pensacola as a base of operations and from there capture Mobile before launching the final attack with a major invasion force. Andrew Jackson thwarted their plans by first taking over Mobile and refortifying it and then by capturing Pensacola and driving out the small British force located there. Later, after making sure that Mobile was heavily defended, he marched to New Orleans to stop the British invasion, which, according to his intelligence reports, was to take place there. He succeeded in crushing the British attack. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 234-245.

him—those Troops with about 2500 regulars now there, together with the local Militia of the State of Orleans and the Mississippi Territory say from three to five thousand will give his Lordship such a reception that he will not consider his enterprize as an agreeable undertaking—possibly Jackson may in the end give his Lordship & army a passport to the other world, or to Tennessee as Prisoners—If our Troops get on in due time they would feel much pleasure in meeting his Lordship in the lower Country—The war has so multiplied my Executive duties that I have enough to do to get thro' with them, but duties I never did nor never will neglect—Gen^l Brown⁵⁵ & his army have certainly behaved well & have done much, but I did hope that that army would have been enabled to close this Campaign with the taking of Kingston—it surely was practicable with the necessary aids of Government and good management—My family are well & join me in the tender of our affectionate regard to you, yours & friends—and am with gratitude and affection,

yours
Willie Blount

John Gray Blount Esq^r

(3) I think you had best derict your answer by the route and thro' the medium you receive this—M^r Wharton will send it on to me & I consider that route safe—the derict route from this State to yours I consider doubtful—where the neglect or miscarriage is I know not but there is great complaint—am satisfied you do not receive the half of mine and Strother's letters—neither do we get the half of yours—

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Merchant
Washington
North Carolina

Care of
The Hon^{ble}
J. Wharton

⁵⁵While Jackson was defeating the British in the Southwest, General Jacob J. Brown (1775-1828), who was appointed major general and given command in western New York on January 24, 1814 (following General James Wilkinson's failure to take Montreal), had considerable success against the British in the North. In July, 1814, he fought the fierce battle of Lundy's Lane on Canadian soil, defeating the British but sustaining many casualties. He was the most successful American general in holding the northern frontiers against the British. *DAB*, III, 124-125.

John McNairy to John Gray Blount [with enclosure]

NASHVILLE 28th November 1814

Sir,

You have enclosed a copy of a writing given by Gen^l James Robertson⁵⁶ to me. From this you will see, the interest I am entituled to, out of the Lands located by him and others employed by him, and which were granted to you and your connexions during the Gen^l's life time I often urged that a settlement should take place, but matters could never be so arranged as to come to a final settlement. Your agents frequently mentioned that they wanted further instructions or additional powers. During the lifetime of your brother William, who (I suppose) had the agency of this business, an offer was made to purchase my interest, but his death and other circumstances frustrated that attempt. Afterwards your brother Willie and myself made some attempt towards the settlement of this business, and he conveyed to me one thousand acres of land which I was entituled to in the Military District. While your son resided in this country we had frequent conversations on this subject, but nothing was done. I then made application to Maj^r John Strother who told me, he was your agent but that he needed further instructions from you, and told me also that he had wrote you several letters on this subject, but has never received any answer, he seems to be very positive that the letters have miscarried. To multiply the chances of your getting a letter, Governor Blount has written you enclosing another copy of this writing between Gen^l Robertson and me. (2) I have a very great desire to have this business finally closed and shall not be particular about it; believe me Sir I will accept of any terms which shall be any how tollarably reasonable

I hope you will therefore upon the receipt of this, send clear and express instructions on this subject to your friend and agent Maj^r John Strother. Notwithstanding I am an entire stranger to you, I entertain the Opinion that you will pardon my importunity, and sollicitude [*sic*] about this business, it is of from between 20 & 30 years standing.

I am very respectfully Sir
Your Obed^t Ser^t
John McNairy

⁵⁶For James Robertson see 1803, n. 35.

P.S. Besides the instructions asked for to your agent, an answer to this letter would be highly acceptable & pleasing to me.

J. McN.

Enclosure

This may certify to all whom it may concern that John McNairy is entitled to three thousand three hundred, thirty three and one third acres of land, being one third of Ten thousand acres, which was surveyed and Granted to the Blounts (I believe) on the Obion river, a water of the Mississippi river in one thousand acre tracts. This he is entitled to on account of a contract with Mark Robertson, and consideration paid by him in his life time by services performed; he is further entitled to one third of all warrants which were divided between us and delivered by me to Mark Robertson and were located by him in his life time or by John Hunter⁵⁷ or John McNairy since his decease and I hereby request the said Blounts their agents or attornies to convey the before described lands to the said John McNairy according to the contract existing between them and me, and this shall be their sufficient warrant and discharge Witness my hand & Seal this 26th day of July 1814

A copy (signed) James Robertston (Seal)

Test

John Baird

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Merchant
Washington
North Carolina

⁵⁷John Hunter was an attorney in Tennessee who apparently specialized in selling land warrants for ex-soldiers who wanted to dispose of them for cash. Land Warrants 4327, 4426, 4533, 4534, and 4536, Tennessee State Archives.

1815

William Watts Jones¹ to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON Jan^y 16 1815

Sir

As proctor for the owner of the Schooner Roger, I filed a libel in this Court against a cargo of Salt, which has been claimed by M^r Josiah C Fowle² who pretends to be a subject of Sweeden.

I wish to prove that he has owned and sold, or either, a vessel of the U.S. as a citizen of the U.S. subsequent to the 20 of March 1809; being the date of his Burghers brief.

I understand he has done business in Washington and did both buy & sell vessels.

Presuming you are acquainted with the circumstances if they existed, I must take the liberty of asking you to give a deposition according to the form herewith sent. It is unnecessary to send a commission or to give notice; but if M^r Fowle shou'd be at Washington at the time the depo. is made, notice will be necessary; to provide for that event, I send the form of a notice, a copy of which can be served by any one, and sworn to before the justice who takes the depo.

respectfully

Your Ob^t servant

W^m Watts Jones

Addressed: John G Blount esquire
Washington N.C.

¹William Watts Jones was a prominent citizen and real estate broker in Wilmington. Jones also represented New Hanover County and the town of Wilmington numerous times in the North Carolina House of Commons between 1807 and 1827. Elizabeth Francenia McKoy, *Early Wilmington Block by Block from 1733 On* (Raleigh: Privately printed [by Edwards and Broughton Co.], 1967), 10, 32, 140; Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 254, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 266, 268, 286, 288, 290.

²Josiah Fowle and his brother Luke established a mercantile firm in Washington, North Carolina, about 1812. Their younger brother, Samuel R. Fowle, later joined the firm. After the older brothers died, the firm was renamed S. R. Fowle & Son. Reed, *Beaufort County*, 169.

*Robert Love to John Gray Blount*John G Blount Esq^rWAYNESVILLE 3rd of February 1815

Sir

I have frequently wrote to you since I was last at Washington But have had no answers to any of my Letters—at the time I left Washington you promised to forward a power that I might be enabled to convey such Land of Yours as are not worth Taxes to such persons as would be Willing to receive them—I have heretofore mentioned that Lewis Ball Esq^r Wanted some Land that he had taken out Grants for—One Tract he will bar You under his possession—a Scope of that Land Ought to be Got Clear off by some means, from my own Observations I am of the Opinion that instead of 10240 Acres which the Grant Calls for there will be 25 or 30,000 Acres which Gives a Large Space of Country to Cull from—I think when I made return to One of the Assistant Assessors of Buncombe County I threw Your Land into five Tracts With a View of Getting Clear of some of it that way; But the Principle Assessor Blended the whole together and made a Sum Total of the amount of Your Tax which I have paid—it is possible that you can furnish the Names of some persons to Whom I might Convey. I Think there might be 9,000 acres at least Conveyed that will be of No Earthly use to you, and afterwards will leave a Large Extent for Culling—These are things for Your Consideration—Such Oar Banks as are Known off I will retain

This Spring and Summer I Shall appropriate a Considerable portion off toward Selecting the Lands in the Mountains about the Springs and on the Waters of Laurel

write early to me on this Business that I may Know how to act

respectfully Your friend & Humb^l Sert.
R^o Love

John G Blount

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r Postmaster
at Washington Beaufort County
North Carolina

Hugh Williamson³ to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 22 March 1815

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Sir

As nothing could be exported from North Carolina for some years past, it was obvious that the means of raising money in that state were greatly reduced. But as the demand is now restored for North Carolina produce, you cannot deem me importunate if I put you in mind of a debt of long standing. The interest of your obligation \$1461:16 eighteen years, by the 19th of next month will be \$1578:05
Of which I received 27th June 1811 533:88

 \$1044:17

It follows that \$1044:17 Interest will be due on the next month. By which it is clear that I suffer the loss of sixty dollars every year by the interest not being paid. And if you take the trouble to calculate you will find that I have suffered the loss of near 600 dollars by the interest not being paid regularly. Nor is this at present the whole that I suffer by such delay, for by a late law of this state I am obliged to pay a tax for the amount of my personal estate including all the debts that are due me in the United States. It follows that I pay a tax for the whole of the debts due me, unless I chuse (2) to swear that I count them bad debts. I lately paid 75 dollars the demand of that new law.

I depend entirely, for my support, on the interest of my money, and the interest not being paid is to me a serious inconvenience at present, for the effect of a rheumatic complaint now renders a carriage necessary in cases where I used to trust to my feet and the other expences of living are much increased. Will you have the goodness to tell me when I may expect to receive at least some part of the interest now due.

I wish you to be assured that a small payment, at this juncture would be very convenient, for I am absolutely paying interest for borrowed money.

Accept my assurance of sincere respect
J Hu Williamson

³Hugh Williamson (1735-1819) had been a member of the Continental Congress and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. A Federalist, Williamson represented North Carolina in the first two United States congresses (1789-1793). After 1793 he moved to New York and eventually wrote a history of North Carolina. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1933.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Willie Blount to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE Ap^l 17th 1815

Dear Sir,

I rec^d the other day your well expressed and highly congratulatory letter on the Victory of Gen^l Jackson at Orleans & the more recent Peace these subjects afford cause for mutual congratulations to every lover of his Country and as I know you & I think [manuscript torn] our common Country and [manuscript torn] alike about our enemies I tender to you my most hearty congratulations on the late Peace—may it be lasting—the Victory at Orleans will tend to make it last longer than any thing which happened prior to the signing of the Treaty—your congratulations on Jackson's victory, an affair in which Tennesseans acted a conspicuous part are acceptable very much so to me and our people—Tennessee has done her part in the war—The Court at New Orleans have fined Gen^l Jackson⁴ for doing his duty, and as the Court say, for a contempt of Court, since the Peace, one thousand dollars—curse such People—we this morning are going out of Town to meet Gen^l Carroll to escort him into Nashville (2) as an evidence of our ideas of his worth as a Gen^l at Orleans where he acted the part of a Hero—all is bustle on this occasion—M^r Jordan waits being anxious to proceed on his journey—My family and all friends are well and join me in the request that you will make affectionate mention of us to your family and our friends—next

⁴The day after the people of New Orleans acclaimed Jackson for saving their city from the British, they learned that Old Hickory had reimposed martial law. He was determined to continue safeguarding the city until it was clear that all danger had passed. This caused bitter resentment among the inhabitants, and when one of them, a legislator named Louis Louailler, criticized Jackson for his high-handedness, the general arrested him. Louailler's attorney secured a writ of habeas corpus from federal district Judge Dominick Augustin Hall to secure the legislator's release. Jackson responded by arresting Judge Hall. Although acquitted by a court-martial on the charge of spying, Louailler was not released because Jackson was convinced that he was guilty. The general then sent Judge Hall out of town and ordered him to stay away until peace was officially announced. After the official announcement of peace on March 13, 1815, Judge Hall waited a week before hailing Jackson to court to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of federal court. Thus began the trial of the *U.S. v. Major General Andrew Jackson*, which ended with Jackson's paying a fine of \$1,000. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 308-315.

Sept^r puts an end to my public services for life and I look forward to the time with much delight—Tell John⁵ that since the war is over he cannot act more acceptably than to come out and see us—I am with gratitude and affection

Your Brother

[Signature cut out but noted
on back of letter]

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Hon'd by
Mr. Jordan

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE August 3^d 1815

I received by last nights mail a letter from M^r Strother, in which he informs me he does not expect to finish running the Creek line for severall months—His papers are here, but on examination I find it impossible to obtain from them the situation of your business in this State; should he return before I leave it, I will take the necessary steps to have all unsettled claims adjusted, and bring with me a statement of the value situation &^c of each particular tract—Lands appear not to be in great demand, & I think no immediate supply of funds should be expected from this quarter—

Uncle Willie has just recovered from a severe illness & I think it probable he may visit N^o Ca^r this winter

Affectionately yours &^c
JG Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

⁵This was John Gray Blount, Jr. Prior to the war Blount acted as his father's business representative in Tennessee. He is sometimes referred to in subsequent letters as Major Blount.

*Robert Love to John Gray Blount*ASHEVILLE 4th of October 1815

John G Blount esquire

Sir

Our Worthy friend M^r John Strother is no more. he departed this life (as report Says here) on the 19th of August at fort Jackson in the Country lately acquired of the Creek Indian, he was out on the Business of runing the Boundary line between that Nation and the U.S—

How his Business is left, or What arrangements he may have made I am Totally Ignorant off—I have always thought that You were deeply Interested in all his Business in this and Haywood County—The people here view his Landed Interest as if his rights with his Decease descended into non existence, and a number of Entrys (as I have been informed) has been made on his Lands since the News of his Death—And my powers have ceas'd so that I can do nothing; It may be that as Maj^r Blount is in the Western Country that You may Receive Earlier information how his affairs Stands here than I will, and if so I would be thankful if You would let me know at an Early Moment. If I can be off any service, I will do everything in my power—

My reasons for making this request, is that I know from Experience that things are much easier Check'd as the Old Saying is By taking them in the Bud than by letting them Get Strength—I have not Got the Business you and himself both requested of me finished—(to wit) procuring the Amount of Sales in those two Counties—I find the Business more Ardu (2) ous than I at first expected—The Register's Books of this (Buncombe) County is extensive (to wit) About 12 Books some of Which have 6 or 700 Pages and I have been Oblidg'd to Turn them over Leaf by Leaf—and so it altho I have once Gone over them all I have not found all, that is I must either have overlooked some or otherwise the holders have never had them Registered—Some I know were not at the time Registered for I have found some of an Old date presented to Haywood Court to be recorded, and many others may Still be Lying Back for so it is that a Great Share of mankind are too careless—

I have made no farther arrangements about Your Lands in the Vicinity of the Warmsprings, the alteration in the Moode of Taxation now will I think preclude the necessity of leting any be sold off for the Taxes—I am returning them for the present Year at the Value of \$2000 this will I flatter myself bring the public & County Tax under \$4—And as a Good share of the Boundary of Your Grant is but Little Known I think it most advisable to retain the whole under the present mood of Taxation untill

it can be more fully Explored—Your Grant I think will Cover 25 or 30,000 acres of Land, But that is a thing that may rest with You & myself—it is distant from me say from 40 to 50 miles & Very mountaineous that it will take time I would advise to Sell to Ball Such Lands as he has had Granted to him by the State if he will purchase—I want your particular instructions on that head—the place he lives on he can Bar by possession

Among other things I wish if You please, that You would forward (3) to me a Receipt for the Three horssees in the Winter of 1812 the two Blacks were at \$80 Each and the Brown \$55 the Totall Amount is \$215—this I may want in a Settlement with the Executors of Our friend Strother—he has fully approv'd of my Conduct in the Business But I have nothing to Shew, and it will now be Esential for me to produce Vouchers in all Casses—let me hear from You on the Diffirent Subjects I have requested if You please at an Early day I have frequently wrote But Seldom have received any answer

With due regard Your Ob^t Serv^t
R^o Love

Give my Compliments to M^{rs} Blount & all friends & C

John G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire Postmaster
Washington
Beaufort County
North Carolina

Edmund Hopkins to John Gray Blount

HENDERSON 18th Nov^r 1815

Sir:

I am favor'd with a Sight of Your letter to M^r Alves⁶ date 14th Sep^t last. I thank you Sir for Your polite & friendly reference to me, as a purchaser of the 1125 acres of land, in Lott 32 belonging to the Est. of Col^o Salter.⁷ & will (as I am Still willing & able to purchass) State as Amply as possible what I will Give you for it.

⁶This reference is probably to Walter Alves. See 1803, n. 9.

⁷For information on the confusion over the Salter estate see 1807, n. 33.

I will pay into the Hands of Y^r agent Walter Alves Esq^r \$3,000—one half the 1st of January 1817. & the Other half in one Year there after, with permission to pay at any earlier Period, any Sums in Anticipations of the aforesaid payments, with a deduction or allowance of Legal Interest which in Kent^y is 6/2th [?] previous to any payment on my part, & after having Secur'd to Your agent, the aforesaid payment amply, I should require a Deed made & Sign'd by the Exors of the last will &^c of Col^o Salter & of all his Heirs of full age Surviving, Warranting the Land against Col^o Salters Heirs of Devissees either of them or of the Said Executors, this deed duly Certified by (2) a Notary public or Clerk of a Court, (I mean the acknowledgement by the parties of it) & transmited here free of Expençe wil be Satisfactory.

If You conclude to accept this Offer Sir, I Am pledged to the Contract, & ready to Closse it with your Agent. if you decline it, I will thank You to Advise me as Early as possible.

Permit me to Thank you for Your Friendly reference In this business, & to assure You I have as you desire in Your letter to M^r Alves, Candidly Stated my ultimate decission.

With due Consideration & Resspect I am

Sir Your Most Obt. Serv^t
Edm^d Hopkins

Col^o J. G. Blount

In consequence of the uncertainty of the Mail from this, to N Carolina, this is the second letter I have wrote you on the Subject, a duplicate of the first

Edm^d Hopkins

Addressed: Colonel John, G, Blount
Washington
North Carolina

1816

William Augustus Blount to William Miller¹

RALEIGH January 24th 1816

Sir,

On the 28th ult^o I received a Commission, purporting me to be appointed Major General of the 6th Division of the Militia of this State, which appointment I accept

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obt Servant

Will: A Blount

[No address]

Robert Love to John Gray Blount

WAYNESVILLE 15th of Feb^r 1816

John G Blount Esq^r

Sir

A few days ago I rec^d a Letter from Capt George Strother, under date at Nashville the 20th of January last, In which he says that James Lockhart & himself had qualified in as Executors On the 18th of that month To a Will made by John Strother on the 22nd of Nov^r 1806 and he States to me that he intends To be in at Asheville by April Court & wishes to Close such contracts as I have made relative to his Brother's Estate in N^o Carolina—I have been Told as well as having Rec^d a notification from Maj^r Blount in his Letter to me of October last, That John Strother had by his Will left You all his Speculation Land in this Country, This Being the Case, the question is whether George Strother can have any Business

¹William Miller of Warren County was attorney general of North Carolina in 1810, governor from 1814 to 1817, and a state legislator for several terms. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 160, 182, 259, 261, 263, 266. This letter is contained in the governor's letter books. See William Augustus Blount to William Miller, January 24, 1816, Governors Letter Books, William Miller, North Carolina State Archives.

with such Contracts as I have made relative to those Land, or whether the proceeds from such Sales do not Belong to You, as I have entered into no Contract about any of those Lands but what are Subsequent to the date of the Will—

I have thought probably that Your Interest in the Western Country with the event of Strother's Death might Induce You to visit that Country—Should You determine on that measure, I would feel happy in Seeing You in Waynesville—If Otherwise do write me on the Occasion, with Your Views on the Subject (2) for I really feel a Great anxiety to Close the Contracts which I have entered into with the people Generally, That is I have a desire to be enabled to Execute Legal Deeds to all those persons who may be ready to finish their payments—think of those things & write me before the first of April That I may know how to Act with Capt. George Strother when he comes—not that I would presume that he would want to Act improperly about the Business knowingly

respectfully Your friend & C
R^o Love

John G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount esquire Postmaster
Washington
Beaufort County N^o Carolina

Robert Love to John Gray Blount

ASHEVILLE 2nd of April 1816

John G Blount, Esq^r

Sir

Your Letter of the 12th of Last Month I Rec^d Yesterday at this place, And as you have it in request to me to let M^r George Strother & M^r Lockhart know that your Son William will Set Out about the Beginning of Summer to Nashville with a View to Wind up Your Business in that Country in which John Strother dec^d was any ways concern'd, And for them to be in a State of preparation to facilitate a Settlement with them as respects the Estate of John Strother dec^d—And as it has been announc'd to me in a Letter from M^r James Lockhart under date of the 24th of last Feb^r that George Strother Died in Nashville on the 19th of the same month of the late fatal Epidemic that raged so much in that place & its Vicinity about that time and that a Cap^t Kingsley & himself were

his Executors—On this Occasion I think at duty I owe You to give the Earliest Notice of the same, That you may know how to Act agreeable to the existing Circumstances; And in the Mean time I shall write on to M^r Lockhart, Acquainting him of Your intention of empowering Your son to repair to that place to make a Settlement with him as he is now the only Surviving Executor of John Strother dec^d (as he informs me) and one of the Executors of George Strother Also dec^d That he may have his Business in a Train of preparation to make an Amicable Settlement in a Speedy Manner and for that purpose You have it in desire to forward You an Acct of John Strother's Claim on You as well as his Amount of Sale in that Country of Your Lands—And as respects Your Business here which You wish me to undertake, I will merely Observe, that I wish an Explanation as to the words “Trouble & Expences” Not that I have the least doubt of Your Justice or Liberal disposition in all Your dealings or Transactions with mankind, But as the words might be probably construed, If either of us Should die before we Could Settle our own affairs, that it was intended for me Out of my Share of the Sales, to meet all Cossts and Charges in necessary Lawsuits & Taxes & the whole amount of Taxes that might accrue, when I stated in my propositions to you that I would be at all Expences only in Exploring, Surveying & Selling &c—and only one half of the Cosst & Charges in Lawsuits & Taxes—and this I think you will I hope think reasonable & equitable between us—Yet I would wish the proposition to extend a little farther That is where I may commence any Lawsuit (2) for the recovery of any of the Lands intended for Sale (and Such there must be for Latterly I am told a Great number of Entrys have lately been made on them) And have prosecuted the same to Effect, and Death take place on either of us before Sales can be perfected That my heirs If You should be the Survivor Should have a share of the proceeds of such Lands on their perfecting the Sales and Complying with the other prerequisites in our agreement, And further I wish It to be understood that in Case of Insolvencies where I may make any Sales and do not convey the Land, That I am not to be responsible, But only that the Land may be resold again, These things I think it proper to now name and be fairly understood between us, as a Great Share of the Sales must be made to the poorer Class of men or not [at] all, Therefore risks will be as to Collection, But in all Cases I will use the precaution of keeping the Land for its own Security, always expecting that such improvements as may be made on the Lands so Sold will Compensate on a Second Sale for the detention of payment and the lapse of time in making the Succeeding Sales—

As we may expect some Lawsuits for the recovery of some of the Lands it will as well as for other purposes be necessary for me to have from you a power of attorney Authenticated in such a manner as will be

Evidence in Courts of Justice that I am Legally authorised to do Your Business here Therefore when Your Son comes Out be so Good as to Send a Gen^r power authorising the sale & power to Convey such Land as I may from time to time Sell and as it will be necessary to have the Same recorded & registered have the Same proven or acknowledged in some Court of Judicature & have the Seal of Office thereto affixt, for it is suppos'd that the power under which I am now acting from you being Given before the Death of M^r Strother from whom You now derive Title may be liable to some exceptions—And as I have a Strong desire to have the Ragsdale Business finally Closed, and I have no doubt but it is also Yours Therefore I will Endeavour to be in readiness to accompany Gen^l Blount² to West Tennessee as he passes here expecting that he will be Cloathed with ample power for that purpose, and I wish the Gen^l Could be with us about the middle of June—

as I am now holding notes which are the proceeds of the Lands which I have (3) Sold here under the authority of John Strother to a Considerable amount, and Title Bonds out for the Conveying of the Lands on which the payment of those notes rests Therefore I wish that an Early understanding Could take place Between Yourself & M^r Lockhart on that Subject, and who ever may be the proper person to authorise the Conveying of such Lands will do so, that the minds of the purchasers may be put to Ease for be assur'd that every Scoundrel attack that can be made against the Validity of the Claim as now making by those who are disposed to risk Suits on their Entrys & C. do take proper Council on the occasion and Send me the result as who must Convey under my Contracts—

And Now Sir as a New Erea or Change have taken place as to the Title of the Lands which I am now to Sell for You here, I therefore I wish You to form a Blank deed of Conveyance to be made by me in Your name, This deed Ought at least to have the Semblance of a General Warrantee, and I think a General Warrantee ca [manuscript torn] Given under the Title—

[Manuscript torn] You can safely write everything to me which You may wish [manuscript torn] as to forward to me a few Blank deeds If the [?] do not be too heavy & in [manuscript torn] as I may Shortly want Such, But above all things [manuscript torn] Some direction as to the

²General Blount is a reference to William A. Blount. See 1808, n. 2.

manner of the Conveying those Lands which I have heretofore sold as no Collection can be made untill that can be done,

with every wish for Yours & Your familys Individual
welfare I bid adeu

respectfully Your Ob^t Ser^t
R^o Love

John G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount, esquire
Beaufort County N^o Carolina
Town of Washington in said County

John Washington³ to John Gray Blount

KINSTON Ap¹ 27 1816

Dear Sir

I purchased last Summer M^r Jos. Crooks part of two patents of land for 1920 acres ea. One granted to yourself and him and the other to him and yourself in Bear River and Dawsons Creek⁴ pocoson [?]

I should be glad to have it decided, and would therefore be glad to Know upon what principles would be agreeable to you and whether it can be done at our joint expense, and further whether you will personally attend (2) To it, if so I shall be glad for you to appoint some time

I wish to attend to it for the purpose of [illegible] the land

I suppose it to be better to do it in the Spring than later on account of the [illegible]

³This was probably John C. Washington of Lenoir County, who represented that county in the secession convention and the Constitutional Convention of 1861. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 386, 824.

⁴John Washington could be referring to one of two Bear Creeks. The first Bear Creek begins in Wayne County and empties into the Neuse River in Washington's home county of Lenoir. The second Bear Creek rises in northeastern Pamlico County and flows into Bay River. Dawson Creek, rising in southern Pamlico County, flows southeasterly into the Neuse River. Dawson Creek was named in 1706 for Richard Dawson, who lived in the vicinity, and was included in the Moseley map of 1733. Since Washington is clearly referring to two separate land patents, the Bear Creeks mentioned could be either one of the two discussed above, but it probably was the one in Pamlico County. Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*, 28-29, 136-137.

Be so good as to answer by the return of Mr. Hooten the bearer

I am respectfully
Sir your Ob^t Ser^t
John Washington

If you cannot attend will you appoint some person to attend in your behalf, & your choice of Surveyor

The sooner it can be done the more agreeable to me

J.W.

Addressed: Jn^o G. Blount esquire
Washington, N.C.

fav^r of—
M^r C. Hooten

Everard Hall to John Gray Blount

NORFOLK May 25th 1816

Dear Sir

I have not heard from you since my last but have seen M^r Dickson who tells me the business has been properly arranged—A sale I think has been effected in good time as letters have been received from London lately giving an account of the determination of M^r Everards executor never to pay the money upon amicable terms if he can help it—Dickson I apprehend begins to be rather sick of his bargain, but that is no business of ours you know—

In one of y^r letters you mention that there would be a balance due me in the clerks office after settling all claims against the office—if so—since these claims have been adjusted by the sale of the legacy, I am entitled to whatever money has been, or may be collected there on my account—Enclosed is an order on the clerk for the money, which you would oblige me by forwarding as soon as possible, as I am at present in very great need of it—

If I mistake not, when I was at Ocracock bar I saw a machine of yours for pumping water by wind, but do not recollect in what manner it was constructed—You will oblige me very highly by sending me a description of it, with something like a draught, if you can, as I am now enjoy the salt business, and find the hiring of pumpers amo [illegible] to more

than I can well afford—Your complian [illegible] the above requests you will truly oblige

Y^r Sincere friend
Everard Hall

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N Carolina

J. W. Worthington⁵ to John Gray Blount

[July 2, 1816]

I send by the canoe 6 Barrels & 48rd of flour & 2 Barrels of Seconds makeing in the whole 18 bls. & 48rd of Superfine flour & 4 Barrels Sconds being all that M^r [illegible] wheat made—he owes us for 19 oak barrels & 4 Cypress & for sending down 21 Bl^s—you will also receive your Meal—I should have had more than 40 m Shingles; but some of the hands has been unwell—I have now 32 m & two hands getting & two sick—If they can be had please send me three bushels peas to Sow by the flatt & bush¹ [manuscript torn] Salt—

July 2. 1816

yours
J. W. Worthington

Addressed: M^r J. G. Blount
Washington

William Vines⁶ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH Nov. 21st 1816

Dear Sir

I arrive safe and well at this place about 10 Oclock on Monday morning last, about 2 in the evening. both Houses meet, and the Members

⁵This was probably Joseph W. Worthington of Pitt County. He appears in the 1820 census as the head of a household of six. He was between twenty-six and forty-five years of age. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Pitt County, 41.

⁶William Vines represented Beaufort County in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1816 and 1817. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 269, 271.

pretty Generally appeared, there has been no business of Consequence before the House, except a Bill introduced to day by M^r Drew⁷ from Hallifax at the introduction he drew the attention of the House in a very Considerable Degree, the bill appears to have Several Objects in View. the General Object appears to be to Tax the States Bank⁸ and compell them to pay Specie by the first day of March next & some others that I don't recollect at this time. he came out in a very pompous manner & promises to unfold some hidden Secrets, such as that the Bank has forfeited its charter & C. & C. and that he is determined to draw some of the quick silver as he Calls it from its Vaults—It is said that Col. Porter⁹ has bro^t his Saddle bags full of (2) Bills and Resolutions, but what they Contain I am at a loss to know, it is however said that he wants to call a Convention—The Penatentiary appears to be popular—Very little is said yet about the Navigation bill, the Governors Message was receiv'd yesterday. As it will get to you as soon as this letter it is unnecessary to say any thing on that Subject—So far as I am able to Judge at present Pickett,¹⁰ Porter, Iredell,¹¹ and Drew will be the leading Characters. I think there are Several Gentlemen of Good abilities in the House, there are a great many New & Young Members several I may almost say beardless boys but appear to be young men of Education—I believe there is nothing more that I can inform of, more than you can see in the News papers—the Boarders had fallen down before we got here from 125

⁷William Drew represented the town of Halifax in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1803, 1809, 1813, 1814, and 1816. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 247, 257, 265, 266, 270.

⁸The State Bank of North Carolina was chartered by the legislature in 1810. In addition to the central bank at Raleigh, there were to be branch banks at Edenton, New Bern, Wilmington, Fayetteville, Tarboro, and Salisbury. The state was to subscribe \$250,000 to the capitalization, which was limited to \$1,600,000. During the inflationary period between the end of the War of 1812 and the panic of 1819, the bank apparently made excessive loans and issued bank notes too freely. This may be the reason William Drew thought the State Bank had forfeited its charter. Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 290, 302.

⁹William Porter of Rutherford County participated in the constitutional ratification conventions of 1788 and 1789 and served numerous nonconsecutive terms in both houses of the North Carolina General Assembly, beginning in 1780 and continuing through 1816. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 206-270 passim, 767, 769.

¹⁰Joseph Pickett of Anson County served several terms in both houses of the North Carolina General Assembly. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 250, 264, 265, 269, 270, 285, 286, 288, 304.

¹¹James Iredell, Jr., of Edenton, was governor of North Carolina in 1827 and 1828 and was a member of the General Assembly many times between 1814 and 1828. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 161, 265-290 passim.

cents to 100 and 90 Cents, so there is no objection on that Score. I hope you will be so Kind as to write to me the next mail if Convenient.

I am with due Respects
Your's &.C.
W^m Vines

N.B. Give my Respects to all who think it worth while to enquire after me

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N. C.

J. W. Worthington to John Gray Blount

[November 23, 1816]

Dear Sir/

I send by the flatt 4312 feet Scantling being all that we have that is good & 6399 feet Inch boards; I do not know what quantity the flatt takes of Singles, but in the two shall endeavor to send 100,000; but am fearful we shall not effect it, as this flatt cannot get down the creek full loaded, & the other is too small to carry those that are left—

Yrs. respectfully
J. W. Worthington

Nov. 23. 1816

Addressed: M^r J. G Blount
Washington

Aaron

1817

William Clark¹ to John Gray Blount

PITT COUNTY/ PINY GROVE 7th Jan'y 1817

Dear Sir

You will please to send by the bearer the barrel of Rum which I engaged of you & if you can conveniently procure an Iron Pot the Size or nearly the Size of that large Pot which sot in the yard at M^{rs} Blounts you will please to send it to me & oblige

Your Friend William Clark

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

William Gaston² to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON Jan^y 17th 1817

Dear Sir

I am desirous that the inclosed letter should reach M^r Blackledge³ as speedily as may be, because it relates to a subject on which he wants early information. As you probably know where M^r B is to be found I have taken the liberty to request that you will have the goodness to cause him to receive it without delay.

Very respectfully Sir
Your most obed^t Serv^t
Will: Gaston

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

¹William Clark of Pitt County was a member of the North Carolina House of Commons in 1820, 1829, and 1830. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 277, 293, 295.

²For William Gaston see 1812, n. 56.

³This is probably a reference to William Blackledge. See 1803, nn. 20, 32, 40.

James Trumble to W. G. Blount

NASHVILLE 10 Feb. 1817

Sir

Yours of the 20th Jany covering me to you from Jn^o G Blount came to hand. I have communicated its contents to Robert Thompson⁴—

When the latter suits were commenced the tenants applied to Mr. Whitesides⁵ & myself we have pleaded to the suits and they stand for trial at June Term & I think it would be advisable for you to be here in the Spring before that court—

I have obtained an order for taking the Depositions of Dobbins,⁶ Crutcher⁷ and some other witnesses I have prepared the notices and given directions for taking the Depositions. and I hope every thing will be ready for a trial. there is some difficulty in not having an agent properly qualified to take Depositions. however I have been particular in my instructions in order to remedy that deficiency. As to the subject of compensation it stands thus soon after my removal to West Tennessee and soon after the first suits were commenced by Pillow M^r Strother employed me to attend to those suits. there were two in the Federal Court & the ballance in Wilson Circuit Court. he informed me that he wished me to attend to them with M^r Whiteside and that I should have a liberal fee proportioned to (2) the magnitude of the contest and my trouble no other agreement was made and no part was ever paid. those suits are all ended after four or five laborious trials in the Federal Court and circuit court of Davidson county—I have also a great proportion of trouble in preparing depositions &c &c before the trials—

In the present suits I think it right that the tenants should contribute their part in paying counsel in as much as the issue is of more importance to them than to M^r Blount I will inform them of that I will therefore expect from you a [illegible] the first set of causes & from the tenants for the present ones or at least a part of it—

⁴Robert Thompson was a speculator in Tennessee lands. See Land Warrants 3764, 4784, 5138, 5202, 5272, and 5289, Tennessee State Archives.

⁵In all probability this refers to Jenkin Whiteside (1772-1822), a native of Pennsylvania who moved to Tennessee and practiced law in Knoxville. Whiteside also served as a United States senator from Tennessee (1809-1811). Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*, II, 388-389; *Who Was Who*, 649.

⁶This perhaps refers to William Dobbins, another land speculator in Tennessee. Land Warrants 1660, 1682, 1683, and 2195, Tennessee State Archives.

⁷This was probably Anthony Crutcher, who acquired North Carolina military warrants 402, 1016, 2202, 3347, and 3426. Land Warrants 402, 1016, 2202, 3347, and 3426, Tennessee State Archives.

We have a cold winter in Tennessee. Snow covers the earth for 8 days past. the river has been frozen across &c nothing new. accept assurances of my sincere regard &c

James Trumble

Addressed: Honb^l W G Blount
In Congress
Washington

Edward Pasteur⁸ to John Gray Blount

FARMVILLE 18th Feb^y 1817

Sir

By the Mail before the last I addressed You requesting to know, why You had declared in public the opinion, that "You had long since considered me of no politicks whatever," for an answer to which I have waited untill the present time, when finding it unattended to, and fearing that my communication may possibly have miscarried, my Friend M^r John I. Pasteur⁹ waits on You for the desired reply: the circumstance Sir, however unimportant to You, is to me, vastly different, I therefore have no hesitation in looking with confidence for Your ready acquiescence, to my so reasonable expectation.

Your Ob^t Serv^t
E Pasteur

J. G. Blount Esquire

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington

M^r Pasteur

⁸Edward Pasteur of Craven County was adjutant general of North Carolina in 1807 and 1808. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 183, 197n.

⁹John I. Pasteur was one of the editors and owners of the *Carolina Sentinel* in New Bern. Miller, *Recollections*, 57.

Jacob N. Gordon¹⁰ to John Gray Blount

PLYMO. 20 March 1817

John Gray Blount Esq^r

D^r Sir

you will herewith please to receive a copy of a Decree in favor Edward R. Byrd v.s. you as administrator to Redding Blount Esq^r Dec^d

Since I ordered this paper I have Seen a Statement made by you and now in the hands of the Executor of M Hardy¹¹ Dec^d in which it appears you had paid nearly the balance due, you however did not Set down the Am^t of the decree as March as it is—I have annexed a Statement which is nearly agreeable to yours in all other respects, which leaves a balance due of 68.86 Cts.—which you will please have examined and if Correct pay the balance to M^r Hines¹² and his receipt shall be good [illegible]

The Executor of M Hardy requires of me to produce the receipts to you for the Money before he can pay it, Will you be so good as to enable me to Claim it by a voucher that will be good for the Executor—

I am D^r Sir Very respectfully

Your M. Obt St.

Jacob N. Gordon Guard.
to Edward R. Byrd

[Attached decree omitted]

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq
Washington

M^r Hines

Willie Blount to William Augustus Blount

BAKERDON June 3^d 1817

Dear Nephew,

I have just rec^d yours of the 23^d April and am so glad of it that I immediately after reading it sit down to acknowledge the receipt—The receipt

¹⁰Jacob N. Gordon is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of four. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Washington County, 19.

¹¹For Miles Hardy see 1803, n. 72.

¹²This reference may be to Richard Hines. See 1824, n. 23.

of a News Paper announcing your marriage gave me pleasure—John informed me you were married¹³—I tender you and your good Lady my best wishes for your joint and individual happiness, in this, your Aunt Mary,¹⁴ who is barely able to hobble about the house on crutches, most heartily joins me—the mode of life you have just entered on is the only rational way of living and it is best calculated to promote happiness—it is a mode of living in which people may be happy if they please, and it is the only way—Nothing could add more to my gratifications thro' life than to have you for my nearest neighbour, at Bakerdon, provided such a residence accorded with your views of future pursuits—to live near to one of my family connexion whom I love, and I love them all, would afford me a pleasure greater than I have language to communicate an idea of—to be a neighbour to the son of your Father and Mother, who I have ever viewed in the two fold lights of my Father, Mother, Brother & Sister would give me sensations which I cannot describe—Knowing my feelings as I am satisfied you do in relation to them and their family I need say no more—Mary has endured as much afflicting pain as any person ever could bear to live, but I hope & believe she will be well again, tho' her entire recovery is very distant—every neighbour we have nursed her as constantly and as affectionately for upwards of three months (2) day and night as if she had been the most beloved one of each of their families and if any of them ever should be near you it will afford me pleasure for you to act towards them as my good friends—but for their kindness and friendly offices and attentions I should have been worn down and Mary would before this have been in her grave & I should have been left wholly disconsolate regarding this world & this life as useless to me forever in all ways—I am so fashioned that those whom I love I love with all my soul and have great pleasure in loving them and when one whom I thus love is taken away I feel like one who is dead—the only property that I think truly desireable in this world is the interest I feel in the wellfare and well-being of my friends and connexions—it is a rational property—all other kinds that I know any thing of may be called, so far as it promotes comfort, a convenient property, and nothing more, according to the use made of it, or contemplated to be made of it—and it is in general something like a button on a Summer-Coat—it is nearly bed time and I will drop the curtain for to night—Since sleeping last night my Garden and Irish Potatoes have been cleaned and dressed over—they look the better for the attention bestowed on them. you Know my Garden is a fer-

¹³William A. Blount's first wife was Anne Haywood, the daughter of Sherwood Haywood of Raleigh. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, I, 166.

¹⁴Willie Blount's first wife was Lucinda Baker of Bertie County, North Carolina. His second wife was Mary White, the widow of Hugh White of Knoxville. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xxix.

tile spot and the Potatoe-ground is very much like it in fertility, hence I count on a great crop of them—I must inform you that the ground before my door which we were trying to get ready when you was here has now as good looking wheat on it as is to be seen in any Country, if it meets with no disaster it will produce thirty and thirty five bushels per acre—it would really surprize you to see it—you Know the ground when undergoing the ploughing was so hard that it broke up very obstinately & in some places the (3) Plough could scarcely be made to penetrate the ground at all—The Timothy and Big-Blue-Grass which I had sewed last fall looks as if it would yield a Ton or so to the acre, and the red-clover seed which I had sewed with my wheat & Rye, about six acres, has come up well—about fifteen acres of my old Pasture is now planted in Corn by way of preparing it for the reception of small-grain and Clover and Timothy seed next fall, if it should do well it will be an encouragement to me to sew about forty acres more the fall after on the Southern part of my place which forty acres I propose to have set out in Apple and Peach Trees as soon as I can after next fall—This Spring has been quite a cool one and as yet tolerably seasonable—my corn crop altho' it is low looks tolerably well—it is clean and when the ground gets warm it will grow fast—my wheat, Rye and oats look well—Tell W. L. Blount that Mr Bayley of Clarksville married Miss Polly Bryan last Thursday—about 200 People were at the wedding and I among the number—say to him also that the old dancing Master Golliday is dead—he was playing his fiddle about an hour before he died—Some say that he was married a few days before his death—that he had a run-away-match of it—that the Girl's father when he found it out took her from him which grieved Golliday so sorely that he died—My young horse Citizen proved to be so unruly that his keeper could do nothing with him, so I had him unstudded & he makes a fine saddle horse—I have seen one or two of his Colts which are so good that I am satisfied he would have made a very valuable Stud-Horse had he been kept as one—I don't admire your choice of residence, in a Town, because I don't (4) believe that a man of your active turn can employ his time in such a place to the same benefit to the community nor spend it as satisfactorily in Town as in the Country—the great object of life is to be useful to the community and to promote the growth of individual comfort on the most rational scale—if you lived on a farm I should promise myself a great deal of satisfaction and edification from a correspondence with you on agricultural subjects and experiments in

that persuit—when I was allowed the pleasure of your company the time passed off charmingly and interestingly so much so that I sincerely wish we lived near enough to each other to have daily social intercourse thro' life—

10th If I had sent this by the first mail after the date, as I intended to have done, it would have saved an apology for my neglect—I forgot it and that is but a poor apology—it is however the fact, and it is said that a fact is a stubborn thing which will always speak for itself and requires not the support of reasoning—since commencing this letter much of my Wheat before the door has lodged and of course injured but it is so good it would astonish you, who saw the ground before it was sewed, to see it—My farm is much better ordered than it was last year, and looks as if it was nicely dressed and cultivated—the different crops of small-grain, Corn, Grass, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Garden and Fruit-trees promise a more abundant Crop than usual—the Cotton looks only tolerable, that is ascribeable to the coolness of the season—to a Carolinian I should have mentioned that my Peas look well—they do—Doctor Wiatt, who is appointed Surgeon to the rifle regiment, U.S. Army, with his family & the family of Gen^l Thomas A. Smith¹⁵ left this two days ago on their way to St^t Louis, there to be stationed—(5) they were accompanied from Nashville to this place by M^{rs} May—their visit to us was very acceptable—during their stay Mary who was so pleased with their company did for the first time since Jan^y last walk across the room unsupported by Crutches, but she is still obliged to use them in common—She will I hope before long be able to do without them and when she may be able to do so I shall be able to attend to out-door-business, and the first that will engage my attention will be the division of my brother Reading's land for my Sister and the heirs—her situation has for many months prevented me from leaving home to attend to any thing of the Kind—Our

¹⁵ Thomas Adams Smith (1781-1844) was a career army officer originally from Virginia. He was commissioned in 1803 as a captain of rifles. By 1808 he was lieutenant colonel of the regiment, and he assumed command of the regiment during the War of 1812, fighting at Plattsburg, Sacketts Harbor, Burlington, Vermont, and against the Seminole Indians in Florida. He earned a promotion to brigadier general for his war exploits in 1814. In 1814, while commanding the rifle regiment, he was named commander in chief of the territories of Missouri and Illinois, with headquarters at Bellefontaine near St. Louis. President James Monroe later appointed Smith the receiver of public monies in Franklin, Missouri, a post Smith held from 1818 until 1826. Fort Smith in Arkansas is named for him. Folmsbee and others, *Tennessee*, I, 258; *Who Was Who*, 565.

present Governor McMinn¹⁶ is opposed by brother Foster¹⁷ at the next election—W. G. Blount¹⁸ is opposed by Gen^l Cocke¹⁹—Marr,²⁰ Gen^l Johnson,²¹ Reynolds,²² Booker²³ and Goodrich are candidates in this district, which is the sixth, for Congress—Cannon,²⁴ Weakley²⁵ & Claiborne²⁶ for the 5th—Doctor Hogg²⁷ & Overton²⁸ for the 4th—Jones²⁹ & Rodgers³⁰ for the 3^d—William & Cocke as above said for the 2^d & William will be elected as is thought—John Rhea³¹ and Sevier³² for the 1st

¹⁶ Joseph McMinn (1758-1824), originally from Pennsylvania, moved to Tennessee and became a member of the territorial legislature in 1794. He served in the Tennessee constitutional convention in 1796 and in the state legislature (1796-1804), where he was speaker of the house three times. McMinn was elected governor of Tennessee in 1815 and held the post until 1821. He then was appointed the federal agent to the Cherokee Indians (1823-1824) and negotiated the treaty whereby the Cherokees ceded huge tracts of land in eastern Tennessee to the United States. Folmsbee and others, *Tennessee*, I, 210, 214, 263, 265, 272-273, 291, 293-294; *Who Was Who*, 421.

¹⁷ Ephraim Hubbard Foster (1794-1854) was born in Kentucky, graduated from Cumberland College in 1812, and was admitted to the Tennessee bar in 1814. Foster was elected to the state legislature (1829-1831, 1835-1837) and served as speaker of the house during his last term in office. From 1838 to 1845 Foster represented Tennessee in the United States Senate. Folmsbee and others, *Tennessee*, I, 309, 321, 334, 345-346, 350-351, 353-354, 357-359; Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*, II, 435, 437, 440, 489, 522; *Who Was Who*, 257.

¹⁸ For William Grainger Blount see 1807, n. 35. In subsequent letters he is sometimes referred to simply as William. In 1811 he had been a member of the Tennessee legislature, and from 1811 to 1815 he was secretary of state in Tennessee. He was elected to the Fourteenth and Fifteenth congresses, serving in the House of Representatives from 1815 to 1819. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 605-606.

¹⁹ This is probably a reference to General John Cocke (1772-1854), a prominent Tennessee soldier, planter, and politician. He began practicing law in Tennessee in 1793 and was elected at different times to both houses of the state legislature, beginning in 1796 and continuing through 1843. Cocke served as major general of Tennessee volunteers during the Creek War and fought at New Orleans as colonel of a regiment of Tennessee riflemen. From 1819 to 1827 Cocke represented his state in the United States Congress. Cocke was also instrumental in founding a school for the deaf and dumb in Tennessee. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 760; Folmsbee and others, *Tennessee*, I, 258-260, 294; *Who Was Who*, 182.

²⁰ George Washington Lent Marr (1779-1856) was born in Virginia and was a graduate of the University of North Carolina. He moved to Tennessee and became attorney general first of West Tennessee (1807-1809) and later of the Fifth Tennessee District (1809-1813). Marr fought in the Creek War and was wounded in battle. He returned to farming but was elected to the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1817 to 1819. In 1834 Marr participated in Tennessee's constitutional convention. *Who Was Who*, 403.

²¹ This was probably Thomas Johnson, a brigadier general in the Tennessee militia, who fought with Andrew Jackson against the Creek Indians in 1813. Johnson served several terms in the Tennessee legislature and was the father of Cave Johnson, James K. Polk's postmaster general. McBride, *Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*, I, 410-411; Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*, II, 259-260.

²² James B. Reynolds (1779-1851) was born and reared in Ireland. Upon moving to America he migrated to Clarksville, Tennessee, where he began practicing law in 1804. He also served as a United States congressman from 1815 to 1817 and from 1823 to 1825. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1600; *Who Was Who*, 509.

²³ This may refer to Peter R. Booker (1784-1839), who was a senator in the Tennessee legislature from 1813 to 1815. Originally from Williamson County, he later moved to Maury County, Tennessee. McBride, *Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*, I, 60-61.

and it is said Rhea will be elected—I believe there is some hundreds of Candidates for the State legislature, among them Judge White³³ & Miller³⁴—I have the honor not to be a candidate for any appointment and never shall be again—farming and private pursuits are my hobbies and they of course will engage my attention, that is, as much of it as a lazy man can give—The Kentuckians are trying to make the world believe that Gen^l Jackson in his official report of the battle at Orleans did

²⁴Newton Cannon (1781-1841) was born in North Carolina but later moved to Tennessee. He served in the state Senate in 1811, in the state militia during the Creek War, and was colonel of the Tennessee Mounted Rifles during the War of 1812. Cannon was elected to the United States Congress (1814-1817, 1819-1823) and became a bitter political opponent of Andrew Jackson. Cannon was the first Whig elected governor of Tennessee, serving from 1835 to 1839. Folmsbee and others, *Tennessee*, I, 280, 294, 299, 301, 309-310, 314, 331, 342-344, 348, 376, 383, 496-498; *Who Was Who*, 163.

²⁵For Robert Weakley see 1810, n. 38.

²⁶Thomas Claiborne (1780-1856) was born in Virginia. He moved to Tennessee where he began practicing law in 1807. During the Creek War he served on Jackson's staff. He was also a member of the state legislature. Claiborne was elected to one term in the United States Congress (1817-1819). *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 739; *Who Was Who*, 175.

²⁷Samuel Hogg (1783-1842) was born in North Carolina and studied medicine in Tennessee in 1804. Hogg taught school as well, until he became a surgeon for the First Regiment, Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, in 1812. He later acted as hospital surgeon on Jackson's staff during the Creek War and on General William Carroll's staff from 1814 to 1815. Hogg was elected to the United States Congress for one term (1817-1819) and then returned to his medical practice in Tennessee and Mississippi. Hogg helped found the Tennessee Medical Society and served as its president in 1840. Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*, II, 478, 481; *Who Was Who*, 325.

²⁸For John Overton see 1804, n. 5.

²⁹Francis Jones, a lawyer from Winchester, Tennessee, served three successive terms in the United States House of Representatives (1817-1823). He also served as solicitor general of the Third Tennessee District in 1815. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1203; *Who Was Who*, 353.

³⁰James R. Rogers was a member of the Tennessee Senate from 1811 to 1813. He lived in Roane County. McBride, *Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*, I, 636.

³¹John Rhea (1753-1832) was born in Ireland and moved to America in 1769. He graduated from Princeton in 1780 and fought in the Revolutionary War. From 1785 to 1790 Rhea served in the North Carolina House of Commons and was a member of the North Carolina convention held to ratify the federal Constitution. He moved to Tennessee in the early 1790s, where he attended the first state constitutional convention (1796) and served in the state legislature (1796, 1797). He was elected to the United States House of Representatives for almost two decades, serving from 1803 to 1815 and from 1817 to 1823. Rhea also farmed and became deeply interested in promoting higher education in Tennessee. He acted as a trustee to Washington College, Greenville (Tusculum) College, and Blount (University of Tennessee) College. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1601; *Who Was Who*, 510.

³²John Sevier, Jr. (1766-1845), was the son of John Sevier and Sarah Hawkins Sevier. He owned large tracts of land in Washington County and Carter County, Tennessee, and attempted to mine lead there. After living for a while in Overton County, he finally settled in Greene County. He represented Washington County in the Tennessee House of Commons during the Third General Assembly, 1799-1801. McBride, *Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*, I, 660-661.

³³For Hugh Lawson White see 1804, n. 7.

³⁴This probably was Pleasant M. Miller. See 1803, n. 26.

not do the Militia from that State justice,³⁵ & the Gen^l stands to it that he did—I expect that the object of the former is to pull the Gen^l down in (6) public estimation, and if so they will throw dirt as long as they can, and if the Gen^l will (after making a bare statement of facts in relation to that whole affair) be entirely silent, they will find that they have nothing to throw dirt about & they will quit less satisfied than when they began the squabble—whether the Gen^l will have patience enough for the observance of a tacit course or not I cannot say—I did intend to have made this letter touch on other points but my neighbour Doct^r Roulhac being about to visit Nashville I shall cut this bob short and ask him to put it in the post office at that place which will forward it a week or so—Mary and the Children as well as Major Baker³⁶ & family join me in the request that you present us in terms of affectionate regard to your good Lady, father, family and other connexions and am

yours affectionately
Willie Blount

Major Gen^l W. A. Blount

Addressed: Major Gen^l W. A. Blount
Washington
North Carolina

To be put in the
Post Office, at Nashville

³⁵Kentucky officials had good reason for the anger they felt toward Jackson, for Old Hickory at New Orleans did not prepare his defenses adequately on the west bank of the Mississippi River, and he blamed the Kentucky troops for the disaster that his army nearly suffered at the hands of the British. Although a court of inquiry exonerated the Kentuckians of conduct deserving censure, Jackson continued to disparage them. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 273, 287-288.

³⁶This is a reference to John Baker of Bertie County, North Carolina. Baker was Willie Blount's father-in-law through Blount's first marriage. Baker apparently had moved to Tennessee to live near his daughter who was deceased at the time of this letter. Genealogical Files, Tennessee State Archives; Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xxix; John Hill Wheeler, *Reminiscences and Memoirs of North Carolina and Eminent North Carolinians* (1883-1884; reprint ed., Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1966), lxi, 32, 130, hereinafter cited as Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*.

*John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount*NEWBERN June the 14th 1817John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

I intended being with you at last Court having a great deal to say to you, as I have since I last saw you made a complete tour of the Country up alligator & Scupanong and between them and Mattamuskeet which Country together with your farm, and the sugar Cane I really like very much. The sugar Cane is thrifty and as a plant Cane with the plough will answer a good purpose: But I have been retained—to defend Gen^l Roberts before the Court Martial, for which I get two thousand Dollars, 600\$ Down and the residue by order on the Treasurer for money due by the State to him which he secures by his note to me at 12 Months. This is better than a solitary Case in a County Court, And will serve I hope to introduce me to business on a more extensive scale—

I have since I saw you entred 128,540 acres of Land in Carteret County that was David Allison's. It had been sold for taxes & I have reentred it. There is some of it really first rate, I am getting M^r Price³⁷ to plot it off, so that I may pick out the good, and leave what I dont think worth keeping—Some of it, one Body particularly is equal to the first rate apaluchia praira land, and seems to have been formed in the same way—

Tell Gen^l Blount if he has any Books on Courts Martial He will very much oblige and serve me, by sending them by the Post Boy and I will return them safely—

With best Respects I am Dear Sir

Y^r Most Obed^t Serv^t
John Dev^x De Lacy

N.B. All location of the N. J. Branch Bank is positively postponed untill the fall, and I believe untill the meeting of the General Assembly

[No address]

³⁷This was probably Jonathan Price of Pasquotank County, North Carolina. He and John Strother produced a map of North Carolina in 1808. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 22n.

James Trumble to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE 26: July 1817

D Sir

There is a suit depending in the court of Davidson County wherein the lessee of Grubbs & League are plaintiffs & Andrew Work is defendant, I am Counsel for Defendt and the plaintiff has appointed to take the deposition of yourself & Squire Aden at the Court house of Beaufort County on the 2^d Saturday of September next—& notice has been served accordingly. My client Mr Work cannot attend so far to take [manuscript torn] the fact in dispute is about a tract of 274 acres granted upon a military warrant to Jeremiah Smith.³⁸ the plaintiff claims title by a deed from Samuel Smith calling himself heir of Jeremiah Smith—the defendant denies that he was heir of the grantee—and the plff will endeavor to prove by the witnesses that he is. I wish you to State in your deposition whether you Knew a Jeremiah Smith a soldier in the North Carolina line. and what Kind of man he was. & whether he had any children. also did you Know a mulatto man of that name a waggoner in the army. & what became of him & if your deposition is not taken I would like those questions answered in a letter to me.

Your deeds with Pillow about the tract in Wilson were not reached on the docket last term. they will not be tried before next June

Your friend
James Trumble

Addresses: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
Beaufort County
N^o Carolina

³⁸Jeremiah Smith of Beaufort County was a private in Allen's Company, Second Regiment, during the Revolutionary War. He received 274 acres for enlisting, and Samuel Smith later claimed he was Jeremiah Smith's heir and had a right to the land. Register of the North Carolina Continental Line, Second Regiment; Treasurer's and Comptroller's Records, Military Papers, Service Records and Settlements, 1776-1792. One Jeremiah Smith, who was a Negro, petitioned Congress in 1851 for a pension. He was a servant to John Smith of Johnston County during the Revolutionary War and carried expresses and performed similar tasks for the officers. He may have been the mulatto referred to in this letter. Crow, *Black Experience in Revolutionary North Carolina*, 102.

Eli Smallwood to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA Sept 1st 1817

My Dear Sir

I have requested J. M Roberts Cashier of the St Bank to give you the Mony for my Note after deducting the Int. from it you will therefore send it to him

I have this day sold all my Stock in the U S Bank at 56/pct above par I make by this speculation \$23,000

John Myers & company wishes to purchase my interest in the Mattamuskeet land I do not wish to be selfish in this sale I [s]hall therefore if a sale should be effected Make it for the benefit of all concerned he has promised to go with me to Mattamusket in October I have told him he may have the Ten thousand acre tract of land for One Hundred thousand dollars of the comp will agree to it if will do us no injury to ask a good price as we can then take what we think proper

E. Smallwood

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Benjamin Robinson³⁹ to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE Dec^r 10th 1817

John Gray Blunt Esq^r

Sir At the request of one of my neighbours I take the liberty to write you to inquire whether you own at this time a Tract of Land in this County (Cumberland) containing five thousand one hundred & twenty acres lying at the head waters of Gibson's, Carver's, Greens & Beaver Creeks, patented 1794, entered by Jas. Porterfield⁴⁰ & by him transferred to you—if you are the owner of the Tract whether you will sell a part or the whole, and at what price

³⁹Dr. Benjamin Robinson of Fayetteville was elected in 1814 by the North Carolina legislature as a member of the Council of State. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 171.

⁴⁰James Porterfield had been a prominent citizen of Fayetteville and was involved with the Blounts in land speculation. Porterfield served in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1791. He died in 1795. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 227; Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 204n.

The land appears still to be yours by the records of our county; but if you have conveyed it perhaps you can inform me who the present owner or owners is or are—I learn from my neighbour that the land was sold some time since for the Taxes but the purchaser neglected to obtain a title Several Enteries are now making of different parts of the Tract—

I hope to hear from you as soon as convenient,

With due respect

I am Sir your very
humble serv^t

Benjⁿ Robinson

Addressed: John Gray Blunt Esqr.

Washington

No. Carolina

Thomas H. Blount's Bill of Sale to William Augustus Blount

[December 31, 1817]

Know all men by these presents that I Thos. H Blount for and in consideration of the sum of six hundred & fifty dolls. to me in hand paid, the int. whereof. I hereby acknowledge & myself fully satisfyed contented & paid hath bagained sold and delivered, and by these presents doth bagain sell and deliver unto the said William Augustus Blount a certain negro man named Joshua—

To have and to hold unto the said William A. Blount his Excrs. Adms. or assigns—And I the said Thos H Blount will warrant and forever defend the said negro Joshua unto the said Will. A. Blount his Excrs. Adms. or assigns forever—In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this thirty first day of December 1817. Witness.

Thos. H Blount (Seal)

JG Blount jr

(2) Beaufort County Court June Term 1818 Then was this Bill Sale from Tho^s H Blount to W^m A. Blount Acknowledgd in Court by S^d Tho^s H. Blount let it be registered

Tho Smaw⁴¹ Clk

⁴¹Thomas Smaw of Beaufort County was a member of the North Carolina Senate from 1805 to 1807. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 249, 251, 252.

1818

Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE Jany. 24th 1818

John Grey Blunt Esqr.

Dear Sir

your favor of the 7th inst. came duly to hand and would have been sooner attended to but for the lameness of M^r Groves¹ hand which prevented him from writing & a little time spent in endeavoring to procure some other person to act as your agent, as I have much business of my own to attend to I have however concluded to act in that capacity, if on the perusal of M^r Groves letter you think proper to empower me and furnish me with the references to your different Lands—Your offer is certainly liberal—

Should you determine on appointing me your agent perhaps it will be well to do it as soon as convenient, I learn that one or more sales have been made since I wrote you of a part the tract of Land refered to in my letter—these sales were for taxes & the land can be redeem'd I presume

With due respect I am D^r Sir
yours &c—
Benjⁿ Robinson

Addressed: John Grey Blunt Esq^r
Washington
No: Carolina

¹William Barry Grove (1764-1818) was a Fayetteville lawyer who served in the state House of Commons (1786, 1788, 1789) and attended both state ratification conventions for the United States Constitution. In addition, Grove became a trustee for the University of North Carolina and president of the Fayetteville branch of the Bank of the United States. A staunch Federalist, Grove represented a North Carolina constituency in the United States Congress (1791-1803). *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1039; *Who Was Who*, 292.

John Gray Blount to Benjamin Robinson
Copy

WASHINGTON Feby 19th 1818

D^r Sir

Yours of the 24th Ult^o enclosing the Letter of WB Grove Esq^r came duly to hand and that being satisfactory I herewith send you the draft of an Agreement which I suppose it may be proper for us to enter into in order to provide against accident. If you approve it execute it & leave it with my Friend Mr Grove & inform me the date that I may execute & send you a counter part & a power of Attorney Herewith I send you the N^o of all the Grants I claim which are registered in Cumberland County by reference to which you will see the dimensshion of the Land, Most of them were [illegible] in my name & no conveyance registered from me The rest granted to David Allison but all were sold for the taxes of 1796 in 1798 & purchased for me by John Strother who conveyed them again to me I have the Sheriffs Deed to Strother & his to me They shall be [illegible] & sent you as well as some (2) plots of part the Land

Copy of this sent Doc^t B Robinson
Fayetteville

(3) List of Grants of Land claimed by JGB in Cumberland C^y

N^o1075 640 Acres dated 23^d April 1795

1194 5800 18 July 95

1195

1196

1197

1198

1199

1200

1201

1202

1203

1204

1205

1206

1218

9273

18 July 1795

9020

10 Dec^r 1795

1219 24733

1220

1221

All above granted to David Allison

66018 granted to JG Blount

90,751

N^o1050 }
 1051 }
 1052 } dated 26 Nov^r 1794
 1053 }
 1054 }
 1055 }

1062 }
 1063 }
 1064 } dated 23 April 1795
 1065 }
 1066 }

[Agreement omitted]

Joseph Blount² to John Gray Blount

[City and month torn off, probably February] 22nd 1818

Dear Sir

I Rec^d a letter from M^r T. Allen a few Days ago informing me that Jacob³ was Still in the woods committing many Depradations in that Part of the county in Consequence of which & his unwillingness to come to me I think it will Be Best to Write Worsly that he Can Take him untill I See him than I will make a Bargain with him for the Ballance of the year or other wise as the Case may Be I write him this Merely that he may come in So that I can Get holde of him I Don't wish By any means that Worsly Should Know But what I Entend Letting him Keep him as above mentioned I also wish that when he comes in you would Give me as Earley notice of it as Possible and I will come Down and we will fix on Some way for his apprehension So that it can Be affectually affected fearfull that if there Should Be an attempt made to Take him and Should fail that he will Be hard to [illegible] in again & if we can Succeede in this you can have any recourse on him and than I will Take him up with me and Dispose of him to the first Goergia Speculator that Comes the Letter

²Joseph Blount was an affluent member of the Edenton branch of the Blount family. Apparently he was a merchant, too, being a partner in the New York firm of Blount & Jackson. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 423n; see 1821, n. 8.

³Apparently Jacob was a runaway slave who had been hired out for a year to Mr. Allen. It was not uncommon for slaves who had been hired out to behave in this manner.

that I Send worsely the Postage will Be Paid please Take it out & forward it as Earley as Possible Please to Inform Allen what we have concluded on also

I am Respectfully Sir yours & . C
Jo Blount

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington NC

John Gray Blount's Power of Attorney to Benjamin Robinson

[February 27, 1818]

North Carolina

Beaufort County

Know all men by these Presents that I John Gray Blount of the State and County aforesaid have constituted made and appointed and by these Presents do constitute make and appoint Doct^r Benjamin Robinson of the County of Cumberland and State aforesaid my true and lawful Attorney for the purpose of selling and conveying all the right title and interest which I have in sundry Tracts or parcels of Land in the said County of Cumberland which were granted to me by the State of North Carolina or conveyed to me by John Strother giving and granting to my said Attorney by these Presents my full and whole power strength and authority to explore, survey & sell the Lands and to convey all the right Title and interest which I have in the Lands in Cumberland County which were either granted to me by the State of North Carolina or conveyed to me by John Strother by his Deed dated the 30th day of July 1798. and to sue and take all lawful means in my (2) name to recover said Lands if claimed by any Person to receive all such Sums of money as is or shall be due for the Sales of any part thereof and receipt or other proper acquatances in my name to give and also in my name proper conveyances to execute which shall convey all my right title and interests to any or all the before discribed Lands in said County of Cumberland hereby ratifying and holding for firm and effectual all and whatsoever my said Attorney shall lawfully do in and about the Promisses by virtue hereof In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 27th day of February in the year of our Lord 1818

Signed Sealed & Delivered

(Seal)

in presence of—

*Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount*FAYETTEVILLE Febr^y 28th 1818J. G. Blunt Esq^r

Dear Sir

your favor of the 19th inst. inclosing articles of agreement for the government of our future intercourse on the subject of your Cumberland Lands came duly to hand.

As the articles appeared to me to be equitable & proper I signed them yesterday (the 27th Febr^y) and left them with your friend W^m B. Grove Esq^r

When it is convenient for you to forward me a counterpart of the agreement and power of Attorney I will proceed to an examination of the situation of your lands and report to you from time to time my progress—

With much respect I am

Dear Sir

your obedient Serv^tBenjⁿ Robinson

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

*Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount*FAYETTEVILLE April 22^d 1818

John G. Blount Esqr

Dear Sir

So much time has elapsed since I wrote in reply to your favor of the 19th Feb^y that I apprehend my letter has not reached you—I executed the agreement written by you for our government relative to our future transactions on the subject of Cumberland Lands and handed over to M^r Grove—The Death of that worthy man will make it necessary to obtain

the paper from his heirs and hand it over to Gen^l Davis,⁴ Mr Winslow⁵ or any person you think proper to name—

I shall be pleased to hear from you as soon as convenient, and receive such further papers and instructions as you think proper to furnish, as delay may be adding to the number of your lost Claims—

I am Dear Sir
with much respect
your obed^t humble Serv^t
Benjⁿ Robinson

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
Washington
North Carolina

Burns & Sugg to John Gray Blount

BENSBORO 14th June 1818

John G Blount Esqr

We have sent p Cap^t King 210 Barrels soft Turpentine a Considerable part of which will want Coopering which you will please to have done we have 90 or 100 Barrels more that will be down in the Course of the next week which we would like to ship with the others to the care of Mess^{rs} R & C W. Davenport & Co. of New York write us at the return of Capt King if the Vessel will sail before the last of the next week & when the pork will be shipped

Yours Rescptfully
Burns &. Sugg

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Washington

⁴This is probably a reference to Thomas Davis, who represented Fayetteville several times in the North Carolina legislature, and who was elected to the Council of State in 1808. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 169, 238, 242, 247, 256, 257, 266.

⁵John Winslow represented Fayetteville several times in the North Carolina legislature and was elected in 1848 to the Council of State. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 178, 268, 270, 272, 274, 275.

*John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount*NASHVILLE June 14th 1818

After some delays by the way I arrived here yesterday—M^r Lockhart is absent from town but is expected back in a day or two, when he returns I shall soon know whether we can do any thing towards a settlement—I find Blackfan⁶ has been an attentive agent & that your business has been attended to—A 640 on Blounts creek & the tract granted W Blount on Tennessee have been sold to Thompson⁷ on the terms mentioned to you by Uncle Willie's letter & part of the first payment received to day, the ballance of it, I shall get this week—William says he will convey this tract granted to his father & get the other Heirs to do so—I hope there will be no difficulty about it—

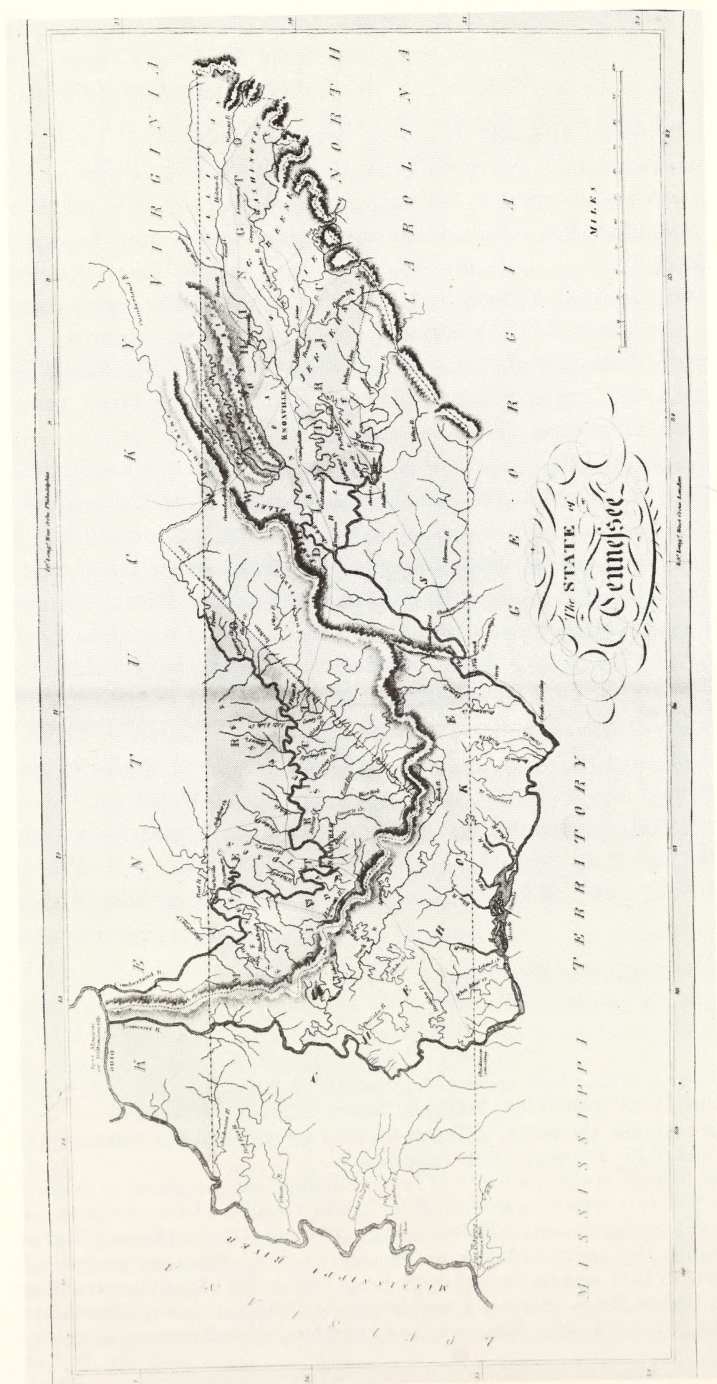
I believe the calculations made on the Mississ^e lands by the heirs of W. B are too greate to expect a relinquishment on the terms (2) you propose—I did not mention it because I thought there was no probability of its being aceded to—William will be here soon, when some thing more decisive may be done—If you were to receive lands in the western district for the Am^t of your judg^t I think they would not be valued less than \$1 p^r Acre, as I believe they would now command it—There have been severall companies formed here & agents sent to N^o Car^o for the purpose of purchasing those claims & land warrants—Land warrants worth \$1 and almost a certainty of their being \$2 or more verry soon—I shall not sell at present, unless I find your wishes can be effected in no other way—

Perhaps you could make some exchange with Donel who I suppose owns the lands conveyed by you to Speight⁸ that would be profitable—The whole country have become speculators & the least assurance that

⁶Jesse Blackfan was a Blount land agent and speculator in Tennessee. Land Warrants 769, 894, 1138, 1360, 1363, 3958, 4565, 5161, and others, Tennessee State Archives.

⁷This could refer to Jason Thompson, a Tennessee land speculator. Land Warrants 31, 757, 1352, 3441, and 5029, Tennessee State Archives.

⁸This might refer to Jesse Speight, a native of North Carolina who speculated in western lands. Speight (1795-1847) served as speaker of the North Carolina House of Commons (1820), in the North Carolina Senate (1823-1827), and in the United States House of Representatives (1829-1837). He moved to Mississippi after his term in Congress and was elected to that state's senate in 1841, serving through 1844. From 1845 to 1847 Speight represented Mississippi in the United States Senate as a member of the Democratic party. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1734; *Who Was Who*, 569; Land Warrant 4358, Tennessee State Archives.



John Gray Blount's land speculation in Tennessee generally revolved around the military warrants and grants made to Revolutionary War veterans. This 1815 map of Tennessee was first published in *Carey's General Atlas* . . . (Philadelphia, 1815); photograph made from a copy in the Map Collection, Archives, North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

the treaty⁹ will be made will raise Mississ^e lands to two dollars or more—I have severall offers for lands & hope to bring considerable money with me, I can't say how much—In consequence of the Small pox being (3) in this place, the Federal Court adjourned without doing any business—of course your suit with Pillow for the land in Wilson is delayed another court—I may not write every mail, but I shall do so whenever I have any thing to communicate—My love to the family

your Obd^t Son
JG Blount jr

I find amongst the orrigional grants in my possession one for Ja^s McClanney for 2560 acres lying on Caney fork—I Know nothing of it—It may have got amongst them by accident, or perhaps you may Know some thing of it—There never has been any claimant for the land—

[Marginal note] I rec^d yours of 22nd May

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE July 9th 1818

M^r Lockhart has been preparing his papers for a settlement since my arrival here, & has not yet been able to furnish his Acc^t. He says he will have it made out soon; but whether we shall come to a final settlement or not, is something doubtfull—My own impression is that we shall; but those who Know him better say it is impossible to settle an acc^t with him—

I think I have so hedged him in by an agreement to generall principals, that there is no place left for him to escape—By way of guarding against any loss which might arrise from want of information about the Georgia business, & a correct Knowledge of the Am^t of lands sold by

⁹In all likelihood the treaty referred to here was the Adams-Onís Treaty by which the United States was supposed to acquire Florida from Spain. Negotiations were deadlocked in 1818, when Andrew Jackson invaded Florida to deal with Seminole Indians who had troubled the United States on its southern frontier. Jackson's invasion prompted the Spanish to pursue the negotiations again. Acquisition of Florida by the United States would have the effect of reducing the Indian threat and increasing the value of southwestern lands. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 350-377, 382-383.

Strother in this state, I have proposed that we settle as far as our present information goes, & that, if in the course of 18 months or two years, either party can substantiate any additional charge they may be permitted to do so—if within that (2) time none are made by the parties, then this settlement is to be final—This if agreed to, may operate in your favour & cannot against you—I have sold some lands & expect to sell more before I leave here; I am yet unable to say how much money I shall be able to raise—I shall do all I can towards it—I have been offered \$1 p^r Acre for lands in the western district; but I think the probability of the Indian titles being extinguished so great, that it would be improper to sell at that price—If there is any way of getting on without selling them until the Indian claim is extinguished, they will be worth an immense sum—Warrants may be said to be worth \$1 [illegible] the cash could not be had for any large quantity at that—They never can be less & certainly will be more—

The claim against Allison & the one against Rice¹⁰ I have done nothing final with yet—Th^o I have some expectations from the first & believe I shall get the latter Erwin¹¹ I think will take Allison's if he can secure me the Am^t of the purchase and through Judge Overton I expect to get the Am^t of Rice's—Matters have been so managed with the Donelson¹² that I fear it is too late to do anything—Uncle Willies faith in their honesty has lost you 2000 acres of land—

(3) I shall leave here the last of this month—

My love to the family
Your Ob^t Son
JG Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

¹⁰For John Rice see 1803, n. 54.

¹¹For Andrew Erwin see 1810, n. 27.

¹²The reference is to Stockley Donelson, Andrew Jackson's brother-in-law, who was involved with Jackson in land speculation. In 1797, as Jackson journeyed to Philadelphia to take his seat in Congress, he heard news along the way of a land scandal involving Tennessee speculators who were forging North Carolina land warrants and selling Tennessee lands to which they had no legal claim. To Jackson's dismay, he learned later that Stockley Donelson was implicated in this land fraud. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 90, 117-118.

William Blackledge to John Gray Blount

[July 26, 1818]

Dear Sir/

The sum I paid at the bank of Newbern for you was \$97.97 on the 6th day of May 1818—The inclosed will shew you the balance due on the execution of US vs R^o Blackledges¹³ estate—the interest of which calculate to the 6th of May 1818 & for that procure me the discharge of the Collector against the execution which take care of for

yours W^m Blackledge
July 26th 1818

Take care also of the Statement for me—& if you can conveniently hand the balance of the money to Thomas or inclose it to me by the bearer I should be glad WB

97.97
<u>68. 6</u>
29.91

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r

Ann C. Blount¹⁴ to Polly Ann Rodman¹⁵

[August 26, 1818]

My dear Cousin,

I was very agreeably surprised to day by receiving a letter from you and I was both pained and pleased at the contents. pained at your affliction for the loss of a son and pleased that affliction in all probability has led you to enquire what you must do: they are wisely ordered by the Father of all Mercies to draw our thoughts and affections from earthly

¹³No information on a Robert Blackledge was located by the editor. Possibly William Blackledge meant to write R^d (rather than R^o) for Richard Blackledge, in which case he was probably referring to either his father or his brother. See 1803, n. 20.

¹⁴The Ann C. Blount who wrote this letter was probably William Blount's oldest daughter. See 1804, n. 12.

¹⁵Polly Ann Rodman, married to William Rodman, was John Gray Blount's daughter. See 1812, n. 15.

and fix them on heavenly things. When my dear cousin, shall herself become the sincere follower of the meek and lowly Jesus she will not think so highly of the attainments of her unworthy cousin—but altho I am not capable of directing you in so momentous a concern as the salvation of your soul; I will thank God that he has led you to enquire of me as it affords me an opportunity of sending you a book, viz. *The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul*, that has been blessed to the conversion of many: read it, my dear Cousin with attention from beginning to end and pray earnestly to God for Christ's sake to enlighten you by his Holy Spirit and give you an understanding heart to discern the things that belong to your everlasting peace. It is the precious blood of Christ that cleanseth from *all sin*: read your Bible pray for faith to believe in Christ. and I beseech you listen not to the cavils of unbelievers for assuredly God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world by that man Christ Jesus. Write me frequently and freely on the subject of Religion, inform me what your views on the subject are. for I hope God has begun a good work in your soul. yes my dear cousin I will pray for you, that he will pour out of the out pouring of his spirit upon you and all your family—If it were in my power I would visit you but I cannot leave my aged Grand Father—My Uncle has not removed to New York as yet. he is on there at present with (2) three of his children who are there at school. when he does remove I shall go with him unless G. Papa stays here. my Sister has only one child Nancy Blount & she has been very ill this summer but is now well excepting a breaking out—she has lost three lovely Boys. my own health is very much improved my Aunt is only tolerable she desires her love to you. I hope Mama may derive the anticipated benefit from sea bathing I should be happy to see her but I suppose I never shall. I am happy to learn that cousin Margarette is so much better. Make my affectionate love with my Sisters to my Uncle, Aunt and all my other relations Remember this letter is for no other eye but yours. I hope the Books will prove a blessing to others as well as yourself—

Yours &c.

Ann C. Blount

Aug. 26th 1818

Addressed: M^{rs} Polly Anne Rodman

Washington

N. Carolina

M^r Le Roy¹⁶

¹⁶ This was probably Lewis LeRoy. See 1872, n. 26.

John Gray Blount, Jr., to Thomas H. Blount [with enclosure]

TARB^o Sept^r 1818

[To James Lockart, Nashville]

Although it would seem there was little prospect of an adjustment of the Acc^t between the representatives of J. Strother dec^d and my Father, yet my desire to have it amicably settled, induces me to make another attempt, from a conviction if it can be effected, much trouble & unnecessary expence will be saved to all parties—

Before I make a proposal I will call to your recollection the terms on which we attempted to adjust the Acct^a—you will recollect that the Estate of Strother was credited by one half the Am^t paid Dillon¹⁷—something over four thousand dollars (a reference to your acc^t will show the precise am^t) If you have my Fathers letters to J. S. you will see that Strother was to have an interest in the Buncombe lands which he resurveyed &^c—In the contract with Dillon, he Dillon was to be at all expences of selecting, resurveying &^c—Of course Strother could (2) set up no claim, never having performed the services which alone could have given him one—And this is the way in which it has always been understood by those who should know most about it—In addition to this you charged the whole amount paid for taxes in Buncombe Cty. whereas JGB should have been credited for perhaps the three first years (I am writing without access to the papers) amounting to severall hundred dollars—Strother paid these taxes as an agent, before he had an interest in the Lands—

As agent in Tennessee, you will recollect all the charges for taxes, & other expinces which could with any propriety be chargable to my Father, were admited from the commencement of his agency—I was well aware that the admission was incorrect, for I trust we both Know, that Strother was not in a situation to make these advances for my Father—It is not matter of opinion with me, for I was with him most of the time from the commencement of his agency in Tennessee untill 1811 and *Know* that the expenses were paid out of money arrising from the sales of lands, the property of JGB—And so far from his having advanced for this purpose, frequently he has mentioned to me, he was under the necessity of using money so obtained (3) on his private Acc^t—The foregoing charges as stated to have been admited, would be correct if Strother had been charged with the Am^t of sales of *all lands* sold by him—But this was

¹⁷This was probably Thomas Dillon, a Tennessee land speculator. Land Warrants 362, 1779, 2870, 2885, 2937, 3229, 3554, and others, Tennessee State Archives.

not the case—I left Tennessee in 1811. There were notes to a considerable amount; some were lent to Strother to answer his individual purposes, the balance for collection—These notes & the money he subsequently received he has alone been charged with—and all expenses since 1811 he incurred on Acc^t of JGB are of course the only correct charges—Not even the cash & notes lent him and which he had the use of for seven years, has any interest been charged for—If the acc^t had been settled with these alteration (and I am certain it would be correct) the balance would have been widely different—Besides the Ge^o business I surrendered an amount which could not with justice be claimed, solely for the purpose of effecting a final close of the business if possible—We differ widely as to compensation for his services—you seem to have considered him solely employed in my Fathers business from the time of his arrival in Tennessee untill his death—This was not the fact; and I will state to you how far it is (4) from it—He arrived in Tennessee I believe in Aug^t 1804 In 1807 the land office opened in Jefferson, and as early as 1806 Strother was engaged in exploring the lands on Duck & Elk Rivers He had a deputation under W. P. Anderson & they were largely concerned in locating lands, & from the moment he engaged in it, his other land business was more than he could attend to—He certainly continued to [illegible] a sort of generall agency and sometimes rendered his personall services; that you will find from the vouchers you produced, when many charges are made for services, which should have been rendered by an *agent* who was exclusively so, which have been rendered by others as thee acc^{ts} will show—And the many double taxes which have been paid & the severall tracts which have been sold for the taxes, evidently shows he had other matters to attend to—In addition to all this when he first arrived in the country I was with him and continued in the country with the exception of occational visits to my relations untill 1811 and performed most of the active duties required of an agent—You claim for Strother the whole am^t of sales after deducting expenses—By the same rule I should be entitled to the part unsold for my services (5) I have given you what I consider the correct outlines of this business, and submit for your consideration this proposal—If you will secure the payment of the balance as adjusted by you & myself within some reasonable time, it will be accepted, & some person shall be immediately appointed to make a final close of the Acc^{ts}—

Please write me or inform M^r Blackfan as soon as possible your conclusion, as it is wished that no further steps should be taken untill your determination is Known

Respectfully
Your Obed^t
JGB jr

Jm^s Lockhart
Nashville

On the other side is your letter

(7) If it should be found necessary to send up my sea-stores &^c by land, I think it would be safer to consign them to Tho^s Hadly than to my overseer—

All I had to say to you is contained in the above mem^r but if I had said it in a letter to my Father it's probable you would never have heard of it—Therefore to save the writing of two letters I send enclosed to [manuscript torn] & part of a letter I rec^d from P. M. Miller—both which please hand to my Father—I send him the copy of the one to Lockhart that he may make any alterations he thinks proper & if there any to be made I wish him to write me directed to Raleigh by next mail, otherwise it will be sent as it is—

I leave here tomorrow for Raleigh—

JGB

Addressed: Thomas H. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Jackey S. Blount's Bill of Sale to John Gray Blount

[December 30, 1818]

Know all men by these presents that I Jackey S Blount of the County of Edgecombe & State of N^o Carolina. That for and in Consideration of the Sum of Two thousand five Hundred Dollars to me in hand paid the receipt whereof I hereby acknowledge Have bargained & Sold unto John G Blount of the Same County & State. All the right title & Interest as held & owned by me according to the last will & Testament of the late Gen^l Thomas Blount in and over the following Negro Slaves Viz George. Jake. Randolph Marcus. Rochester. Bill. Dick. Tom. Alfred Luke. Fanny. Silla. Lucy & Eliza. To have & to hold unto the Said John G Blount all my right to the above named negroes free & Clear

In witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand & Seal this 30th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred & Eighteen

J.S. Blount. (Seal)

Witness

Ben. M. Jackson¹⁸

¹⁸Ben M. Jackson is listed in the 1820 census for Edgecombe County as an agent for Jackey S. Blount, Thomas Blount's widow. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Edgecombe County, 2.

1819

Jonathan Price to John Gray Blount

RALEGH 1th January 1819

My Old Friend

I have been detain^d, some days at Raleigh after the session of the General assembly was ended, I used what little influence I had to get the Bill for a Canal from Roanak River near Williamston to Tar River near Washington to pass: The Washington, Tyrell and Chowan County members were Voilently oppose'd to the Scheem they were still much in favor of that most unheard extravagance of Stopping up the Passage of the water between the Pamticoe [Pamlico] and Albemarle Sounds and fool like trusting to Nature to open a Channel out from the Albermarle Sound through all those heaps of Sand at least Six fathoms deep to the Clay, which the God of Nature had formed for the protection of all our low Rich Swampy Lands—thes men never even so much as dreemd of the eternal course of the nature of things wold it not be very cosey fro a member of our Legeslator to covince his constituents that a very small Tax for enternal improvements would be an everlasting benefit to his Country forever. (But No!) the Cry here has been (economy, economy; eocomnemy) till I was tyred to death with the Nonsencical sound—

The Cry put me in mind of an old economical farmer who had set his soul to the improvement of his Lands by making manure and by his deep scill in three years time he had made thirty or forty very large piles of the highest grade of compost with lime and other Materals. (2) At this he though[t] twas time to invite his farming neighbors to take dinner with him and after dinner to Shew them what a great man he was, to improve Lands by mannure. takes his Guest out to his barn yard and Shews them forty five large and butiful heaps of mannure that by his economy and Industry he had made in the Course of three years, an old friend of his who much wished information and improvement simply asked the old econimist what quantity of this wonderfull Compost he anually put on an Acre of his Land the econimist much Piquit at as such, an absurd question, answered pevishly (not a jot) prity qustion indeed, was I as you supose fool enough to Spread all these fine heap over the Land they wold soon be out of our Sight and my great skill in making mannure wold be Lost foever—and my great skill in improving Lands would be lost forever.

This story of the old farmer is a digresion from the Subject of my letter I hope you excuse the [?] though as it only Struck me on hearing the

word economy So often used in the House called the General assembly of N Carolina—you know me M^r Blount better than I know myself and have liberality to make all due allowance for the errors of my thoughts

When a Canal was to be opened from Roanak to Pamlico River (3) M^r Iredel Horton and many others said They were not in favor of altering the natureal Cours of the River Roanaok, and wonderful fluent was M^r Horton in [s]peach to Shew that nature ought not to be obstructed peticularly as to the Roanak River above *Plymouth* but the great good of Stopping up the marshes, and altering the natural water Course between the Albemarl & Pamticoe Sounds, so as to divide the communication of the Northern Section of the State from that of the Southern, would be the most desireable object; (from the thoughts of Such men the Lord deliver us)

I am yours &^c
Jonathan Price

John Gray Blount Es

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

J. W. Worthington to John Gray Blount

BLOUNT HALL Ja^y 9 1819

Dear Sir

Enclosed is \$1332.40/100 it [illegible] so much placed in my hands while in Tennessee by Gov^r Blount¹ on a/c of the Estate of your Brother Reading, which I promised to pay over to you—supposing that you might have a use for it before I could come over I have sent it in this way—the rec^t of which you will please acknowledge—hoping all are

well I am y^{rs} truly
J. W. Worthington

M^r J. G Blount
Washington

Addressed: M^r John G Blount
Washington
N C

¹This is a reference to Willie Blount.

*Thomas Love² to John Gray Blount*NEWBERN 16th January—1819

Dear Sir

I have Examined the Ten patens Granted by this State of James Coor³ and Survy^d—I beleave all by H Rutherford⁴ Two of them only appears to have bean Survey^d on obion rivir on warrants N^o 2512 & 2513 for one thousand acres Each, the other Eight Grants for one thousand acres Each are Survey^d on the waters of the forked deer five out of the Eight Grants on forked deer appears from the plats Enaxed [annexed?] to the Grants appears to have bean Survy^d in the name of Thomas Coor yeat the hole of the Ten Grants are in the name of James Coor the Number of the Eight warrants that is Survey^d on the forked deer is as follows N^o 2515 & N^o 2524 and 2516 in the Name of James Coor and warrants N^o 2518 2519 2520 2521 & 2517 are in the Name of Tho^s Coor Survey^d in the Name of Tho^s Coor but Granted to James Coor—Such infirmation as you may be So Kind as to Give me respecting the Two Grants on the Obion River & the Eigh^t Grants on the forked deer, will be rec^d as a favour that Shall Never be forgotten by me, and upon my Honour Such infirmation as you may please to give me on the Ocation Shall be with my Self alone perhaps it may be Such as will Ennable me to find the lands

I Shall leave this place this morning (2) for home you will please to write me as Early as possable and direct your letter to me at Haywood County Waynesvill as I Should be Exceedingly glad to rec^d the Infirma-

²Thomas Love (1765-?), the brother of Robert Love, was deeply involved in western land speculation and politics. From 1797 to 1808 Love was elected by Buncombe County to the North Carolina House of Commons. In 1808 he participated in the formation of Haywood County and subsequently represented the county in the state legislature almost continuously from 1808 to 1829. During the War of 1812 he became a brigadier general of the Haywood County militia. He also helped run the boundary line between North and South Carolina in 1814. Love moved to Tennessee in 1830 and maintained an active role in Tennessee politics, finally serving as speaker of the state Senate. Arthur, *Western North Carolina*, 128-129; Lemmon, *Frustrated Patriots*, 109-110; Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 236-292 passim.

³James Coor of Craven County was a member of the Council of State (1792-1794) and served several terms in the North Carolina General Assembly between 1777 and 1792. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 166, 201-227.

⁴Henry Rutherford, the son of Griffith Rutherford, was a surveyor and land speculator in partnership with his father who acquired numerous land patents along the Forked Deer River in Tennessee in 1789. Around 1819 Rutherford founded the first permanent settlement on the river. The 1790 census lists a Henry Rutherford as a resident of Lincoln County, North Carolina, and the owner of two slaves. A Henry Rutherford also fought in the Revolutionary War. *The First Census of 1790*, 114; *Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1967), 215; Hoyt, *Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*, I, 134n; Abernethy, *From Frontier to Plantation*, 53-54.

tion previous to my Setting out for Tennessee which will be about the middle of february—

I am Dear Sir Very respectfully
Your friend as usual &c
Tho^s Love

J G Blunt Esq^r
Addressed: John G. Blunt Esq^r
Beaufort County
Washington
NC

William Matthews⁵ and Company to John Gray Blount

BALTIMORE 2 mo. 22. 1819

John Gray Blount

Esteemed friend

By a letter received from John Baillie dated the 13th Ins^t we are informed that thee is in possession of the documents relative to the wrick of the Schooner John Rodman. Captain Pendleton and that the Captain Pendleton had diposited in thy hands the money arising from the Sales [illegible] as Baily had shipped & consigned to us a part of the cargo consisting of Tar which was insured in this place, we are in want of a copy (attested in due form) of the captains protest on the loss of the vessel, and also a copy in like manner of the [illegible] sales, shewing the net amount of the Sum recovered belonging to the underwriters. we therefore request thee will forward those papers to us and inform us if the money can be drawn for.

Thy immediate attention to this request will oblige us.

We are very respectfully
Thy friends
W^m Matthews & C^o

[Address torn off]

⁵For William Matthews see 1810, n. 1.

*Willie Blount to John Gray Blount*BAKERDON March 20th 1819

Dear Sir,

By M^r Seth Jordan you will receive two thousand dollars the sum you wrote for—I have but little time to write as M^r Jordan is in a hurry to be off—My family and all relatives in this quarter are tolerably well—The Grand Juries of several of our Circuit Courts have addressed me on the subject of becoming a Candidate at the next election to be held in this State (in August) for Governor, & have requested that I would be a candidate—I have answered that my health (which was much impaired by the arduous duties of the late war imposed on me then to discharge) is not sufficiently good to authorise me to believe that I could in justice to the interest of the State do the duties of so important an office: & further that the health of my wife is not sufficiently restored from (2) her illness two years ago to justify me in leaving her at home for any length of time & she cannot without being much exposed, from a change in her mode of living, leave home—therefore I trust they will excuse me for declining to be considered a candidate at the next or at any future election—a sedentary life disagrees with me & a moderately active one on foot agrees very well with me—after I get well of Piles which prevents me from riding much I hope to be as well as I was in former days—that complaint I am getting better of & hope to be well—Mary joins me in the request that you present us affectionately to your family & friends, receive the same yourself & I am

your affectionate brother
Willie Blount

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Hon'd by
M^r Jordan

William Augustus Blount's Purchase of a Slave

[March 25, 1819]

Know all Men by these presents that whereas, I Allen Grist⁶ Sheriff of the County of Beaufort State of North Carolina by virtue of a certain writ of Venditioni exponas to me directed from the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions of Beaufort County aforesaid returnable to June term 1818 of said Court commanding me to expose to Sale Certain Goods and Chattels the property of James R Hooker⁷ previously levied upon to Satisfy a certain judgment obtained in the said Court for the Sum of Seventeen hundred and Seventy five pounds Debt with Interest from the 24 May 1817 and four pounds Seventeen Shillings Costs, in a Suit wherein R & C W Davenport & Co were Plaintiffs and James R Hooker and Josiah C Fowle⁸ Defendants, did accordingly, after one advertisement made, expose to public Sale at the Court House in the town of Washington County aforesaid on the 22^d May 1818 a Certain negro boy named George, at which Sale William A Blount of the same place became the last and highest bidder for the said negro at the Sum of Seven hundred and two Dollars. Now therefore I Allen Grist Sheriff aforesaid for and in Consideration of the premises and of the said Sum of Seven hundred and two Dollars to me in hand paid by the said William A Blount, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and the Said William A Blount his heirs Executors and Administrators forever released (2) and discharged from the Same, have bargained Sold assigned and Set over and by these presents do bargain Sell assign and Set over to the Said William A Blount his heirs and assigns the Said negro boy George, to have and to hold to him the said William A Blount his heirs and assigns to the only proper use and behalf of him the said William A Blount his heirs and assigns forever. And I the said Allen Grist do hereby Covenant and Agree to and with the said William A Blount his heirs and assigns to warrant and forever defend the Said negro to him the Said William A Blount his heirs and assigns as far as my said Office extends and no further

In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal at Washington Beaufort County aforesaid the 25 day of March 1819—

Allen Grist (Seal)

Shff

⁶ Allen Grist, sheriff of Beaufort County in 1819, later served two terms in the North Carolina Senate. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 318, 323.

⁷ James R. Hooker is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of three. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 21.

⁸ For Josiah Fowle see 1815, n. 2.

Signed Sealed & delivered in
the presence of
W W Rodman⁹

[Clerk's entry omitted]

Benjamin Robinson¹⁰ to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE March 26th 1819

Jno. G. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

Three days since I met our Friend Jno. Winslow Esqr. and he handed me a letter from you under date of Dec^{mr} 10th 1818—intended to be given me by Tho^s H. Blount Esq^r also Strother's Deed to you which I had long been expecting—M^r Winslow observed that when he rec^d these papers from M^r Blount at Raleigh he was much engaged in the business of the Session and laid them by with other papers for which he had no immediate use, and they were forgotten till this time—This will acc^t for your receiving no acknowledgement of these papers—After the rec^t of the Contract and other papers which reached me thro' the hands of S. Haywood¹¹ Esqr. of Raleigh, I had an opportunity of sending you a verbal message stating that I would write you on the rest of Strothers deed which was refered to in your letter of the 4th May 1818—

I had the pleasure of meeting your son-in-law M^r Rodman at Raleigh last winter & requested him to say to you that I had made very little progress in your business—The surveyor who I had engaged to make the necessary investigation before anything further could be accomplished, put me off from time to time under one pretence or another till I have reluctantly been compelled to engage a second one—the reluctance I felt at giving up the first surveyor arose from a knowledge of his superior qualifications for making the investigation—I shall sometime in April (2) as soon as the weather will permit, recommence the enquiry and continue till I either find the Lands called for in your titles or that they are not to be found. I am sick of this neglectful mode of doing business—you

⁹William Rodman, married to Polly Ann Blount, was William Augustus Blount's brother-in-law. See 1812, n. 15.

¹⁰For Benjamin Robinson see 1817, n. 40.

¹¹The S. Haywood referred to could have been Stephen Haywood of Wake County, who served three terms in the North Carolina General Assembly (1817-1819). Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 272, 273, 274. Another possibility is Sherwood Haywood. See 1821, n. 7.

shall hear from me as soon as I am able to establish any of your surveys—

Who was formerly agent for your Cumberland Lands? Was Col^o John Dickson¹² once your Agent?

I am

very respectfully your ob^t Ser^t
Benj. Robinson

P.S. David Hay¹³ Esqr. Administers upon the estate of our late worthy friend W^m B. Grove and will hand over on application the contract I executed to you and left in M^r Groves care—

B. R.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N. Carolina

Sarah Fullington to John Gray Blount

[May 24, 1819]

Dear Sir,

On Wednesday last Mr Corprew¹⁴ had his Land run out & fixed it So as to take the whole of my Plantation. I Should be very glad if you would advise me what I had best do. the papers I have Sent which was in my posession—if Something is not done he will Cut all the timber off the Land, knowing I am nothing but a lone woman—

Bath May 24th 1819 With Respect Sarah Fullington
Mr. J. G. Blunt

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blunt
Washington
N.C.

¹² John Dickson of Cumberland County served several terms in the North Carolina General Assembly between 1800 and 1815. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 241, 243, 245, 246, 260, 265.

¹³ David Hay, a member of a prominent Fayetteville family, was a lawyer and plantation owner. Oates, *Story of Fayetteville*, 109, 507.

¹⁴ Three men named Corprew, George, James, and William, are listed in the 1820 census as heads of households in Beaufort County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 9.

*Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount*FAYETTEVILLE July 24th 1819J. G. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

Shortly after my last letter to you on the subject of your lands in this County, our little town was so overwhelmed by the alarm which arose for the failure of several merchantile Houses here, and effect produced on our citizens generally by the unexpected fall in produce, that our whole attention was engrossed in seeking ways and means to save ourselves from immediate ruin—I did not escape the panic¹⁵—

It was therefore late in June before I could conveniently leave home with a surveyor to search for your lines on the survey of 5120 acres lying on the head waters of Gibsons, Carvers Greens & Beaver Creeks. This Last was nearest to town, and several attempts had been made without success to find the corners—I feel satisfied that I found the beginning corner but on taking our course and distance on two of the first lines no trace of corners could be found—The surveyer therefore doubted whether any had been orriginally made—One of the chain carriers with the surveyor being dead and the other a Mad Man no information can be derived from the parties on the (2) orriginal survey—as a great proportion of this tract of land has been entered since the date of your Patent and there are many claimants I have come to the determination to sell it to the highest bidder on the first day of our September Court after due advertisement on a credit of 12 or 18 months—

I have found a purchaser who will give a fair price for the land if the tittle could be made good—he is desirous of purchasing and will go so far as to save us from costs in such suits as may be brought provided your tittle fails—conditioned that if the land is held under your tittle, that such necessary costs as he is subjected to shall be deducted from the purchase money

Can the Original Grant for this tract be produced? it is not among the papers which you have forwarded me nor at the Secretary's office at

¹⁵The panic, or depression, of 1819 affected North Carolina in much the same way it affected other parts of the country. Deflation, falling prices, and lower property valuations forced banks to suspend specie payment of their notes. Many businesses and individuals went bankrupt. Banks were blamed for causing the panic or at least making it more severe than it should have been. An antibank sentiment was widespread, as were demands for unsound money and inflation to remedy the economic illness. Voices expressing such sentiments were particularly numerous in western areas of North Carolina and other states. Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 303, 319-320.

Raleigh—M^r McKay,¹⁶ the gentleman aluded to as a purchaser is extremely anxious to obtain it—I have procured a copy from the office—

As the pressure of the “times” if felt with such severity here that there is no prospect of making sale of your other lands I have not attempted an examination into any other survey but will do it as soon as any thing can be effected by it—

I am, with much respect
your obedient humble Ser^t
Benjⁿ Robinson

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
No. Carolina

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE 3rd October 1819

My Dear Father,

Yours of the 10th Ult. was recd. on the 26th and the pleasure I recd. was truly great, as I think my Sisters truly fortunate, if in that place they can escape with only the ague & fever, & even of that I hope they are relieved as I well know exercise & a small portion of medicine will soon cure them—Abner's loss I really regret, as I fear without M^{rs} McDaniel things cannot go on very well, but she was far advanced in years & could not well calculate on many more, but still we are unprepared for such an event, with one whom we have long looked up to as giving us pleasure, and with him I suppose with filial reverence.

We have here the finest weather I ever saw, not a cloud for five weeks past, and at the same time sufficiently cool to wear our winter cloath, 'tis now very much like our month of May, the wild cherry near the house in full bloom, (2) no person sick, and they rely that this weather will continue till the middle of November, when rain usually commencez—if this climate was at Washington how happy we could all be, provided a few of the limestone springs were there, for on this farm alone (Miller's)¹⁷ they

¹⁶Many McKay (pronounced McKoy) families lived in Cumberland County at this time, and it is impossible to identify this man without a full name.

¹⁷This is probably a reference to Pleasant M. Miller. See 1803, n. 26.

have four excellent springs more than they use from—'twould not violate any commandment to covet one of them as they are here useless—We shall leave here on the 5^h on our return home, and after remaining three days at the Sulphur springs twenty miles from this, I shall not stop any where, longer than will be sufficient to rest our horses &c. &c. so that my impression is we shall see you by the 1^t November at farthest, but I hope a few days sooner—Margaret has increased about 15 or 20^{lbs} since you saw her, & is much stronger, tho' her cough is not to me better; I hope however it is—but if she recovers her strength and increases in size, her health must be better, & in time her cough will disappear—I am much better, & tho' my eyes are yet yellow, I cannot (3) expect to be entirely changed in a few months, when my disease has been increasing for ten years; if I can only stop its progress I shall be satisfied, as proper care will then restore me—

I have this moment recd. a letter from John is which he says "I am unable to say whether I can get home this winter or not; if funds must be raised before I do so, & that was the object of my journey, I do not think I shall in 18 mo. All my Father's other business can be settled this winter; but money cannot be had, nor is it in the Country." This is the fact—never have I heard of such a scarcity, for negro men sell for 200\$! I have made an arrangement with William about T. B. [illegible] & shall write John to day—William¹⁸ leaves here the 15^h for the Chickasaw Country to meet John—Your relatives in this Country are all well—

Yours affectionately
Thos. H Blount

Tell J. Akenford¹⁹ of my intended return & that I recd his letter on the 10^h Ult—

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington
N. Carolina

¹⁸Thomas H. Blount refers here to his brothers, John Gray Blount, Jr., and William Augustus Blount. The editor does not know who T.B. was.

¹⁹John Akenford is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of two. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 1.

*Robert Love to John Gray Blount*WAYNESVILLE 21st of October 1819John Gray Blount Esq^r

Sir) Your Letter of August the 22nd came to hand lately; The reason of my not writing to you Earlyer after Seeing your Son at the Warm springs was Owing to two circumstances, One of which was the Sickly Situation that I found my family in when I got home from the Springs. I parted from your [manuscript torn] on the 30th of July & the Next Evening I Got home, and in the Evening of the Next day (to wit) the first day of August One of my Daughters died, (my wife then absent in Tennessee Waiting on her Sick Mother a Widow who also died Shortly after) and the Ballance of my family Chiefly were Affected either Less or more, but more Severely two of my Sons in Succession, and both 20 miles from home, which took up my time so Generally Between them & family who were with me at home that I was not able to attend to any other Business untill about the middle of Last Month, at which time I had to leave home to go to the Circuit Court at Morganton, Where I had removed Our Land Suit With James Allen²⁰ for the Land round Barnet's Station²¹ a noted place on the Warm spring road, this Suit is all important to us, and Great pains are takeing with the[?] parties Oppos'd to your Title; and Since the Court begun in this circuit I have been so busily Engag'd, that I have had no time untill the present to either Act or think—And now as respects the Silver Ore an appointment had been made by the discoverers to have been at my house about the Mid (2) dle of June to have made an experiment in my presence with of the Ore, at this time I was to have been back from West Tennessee, and which I was, but on my return home I found my wife Gone to wait on her Sick Mother as I before Stated; and these Men lived in that Neighbourhood, Therefore in a few days I went on to where they were, and on the Night I Got to the place, the principle one & who was the only one who pretended to [manuscript torn] in Chimistry Got his right arm broken a little above his wrist bone at least he So said & made use of a Sling; this State of things prevented any thing being then down, and after a Tarriance of 8 or 10 days with my wife & her Sick Mother I returned home. I went back about the 20th July, and after some difficulty and after drawing an agree-

²⁰This was probably the James Allen who acquired a land warrant from Private Edmond Wright. Land Warrant 1681, Tennessee State Archives.

²¹Barnet's Station possibly refers to an old stock stand on the French Broad River, five or six miles below Marshall, North Carolina, that was owned by a man named Barnard. Arthur, *Western North Carolina*, 46.

ment for the[?] parties to Enter into, I Got them to make the Experiment of which Your son has inform'd you Off as he had from me with the View of the mettall which is Suppos'd to be extracted from the Ore, I have this moment for the first time being Trying the Weight, and find that we may Safely Calculate, what ore we us'd was below two pounds Say $1\frac{1}{2}$ first burnt but neither washed nor beat and from which there is $37\frac{1}{2}$ Cents of the purest looking Silver better than 25 Cents of which is in one piece United, I used all the care in my power to prevent deception Yet Such a thing might have happined but I flatter myself Otherwise—I think that if Silver was put into the hearth bason or Cruisible it must have been put into the Mortar that that Bason or Cruisible was made off as I did not See it before it was in the Smiths hearth burning under a Severe Blast, & the Ore we us'd was Burning on Top of the Cole, After the Bason was burnt as they Said Enough I saw it Clean brushed out with a brush broom, The Ore was beat & dusted by the owner of the Shop an Indifferent person & one who was desirous of discovering the deception if any was intended to be practis'd; The ore after (3) being beat fine was put into the fire under the direction of the Chemist at Sundry times by my son Samuel, I held the drugs made up of five different parcels But of what composition except he would not Tell (the whole of which would not have exceeded in Weight a $6\frac{1}{4}$ Centpiece) between my fingers & Thumb and as he directed had them put into the fire he haveing his right arm in the Sling and Standing off from the fire and not intermeddling with the same untill he by a nail rod examin'd the composition in the blast and found it melted or [manuscript torn] in the Cinder the Mettall Generally found with the Cinder adhering to the same which leads to believe that it could not have risen up out of the Mortar of which the Bason was made, But it is not worth my while to dwell on the Subject as I have Sent you by your Son a Sufficient quantity of the ore to have it properly Tryed, and which I hope you will have done; it is not Generally known here yet, I have thought it prudent to say no more about it than I could well help—I have enclos'd a Copy of the agreement above alluded to; and as the Chemist Robert Orr²² (whom by the G[ods] I think a rascal) & William Mills have refused Signing I think that we are under no farther Obligation to them, as to William Tinker & Martin Shelton through whom the discovery is made (if Good for any thing I wish to Treat them well—I have consented to take in my Brother Thomas who will be of use to us in the General assembly under the Clamorous Situation that the Country has got into about your Title

²²This might be the Robert Orr who registered a livestock brand in Buncombe County in 1794. Sondley, *Buncombe County*, II, 478.

and every effort is making to destroy the Same, and at the head of which is your old friend W^m Brittain²³ and Z Beard²⁴ has Studily Electioneer on that principle Beard has been left out at the last Election W^m Brittain I believe has give Notice that he will be a Candidate at the Ensuing Election, and he has been instilling into the minds of the Inhabitants in the North Eastern Section of Buncombe County that your (4) Lands had all reverted to the State except Such as had been Selected into Small Surveys when in Truth and in fact, that all the Lands below Walnut Creek have always been retain'd, as well as all the Lands in the Cainny River Settlements; William Brittain about the year 1801 or 1802 took out a Grant for the Land Opposite the upper warm spring including where the little Town was laid out, and [manuscript torn] he has Sold to William Neilson Jun^r dec^d a Number of years ago, and the administrators have taken possession the last year of the Same consequently it will become necessary to bring a Suit against the person in the possession Shortly, yet I had a wish not to bring any Other Suit than what I now brought Untill a decision could be had thereon, the Suit at morganton against Allen we did not reach owing to the Judge not opening Court untill Tuesday the Suit v^s James Patton for the Land Near to Asheville, he could not be ready to Try as well as the Suit v^s Alexander of Mecklenburg for a Tract on Laurel the Situation of his Claim is that his Title is the oldest but he is not able to Identify any one Corner or line and has lately run out and marked new lines all round agreeable to the Calls of his Grant, I have acknowledged being in possession and the Service of the writ in order to Try the Title, his Brother it seems was the Surveyor, and is not able now to go on the Ground But he think he can Identify the Land by his deposition to be taken on the 9th day of November which will be the Time of Mecklenburgh Court, and M^r Burton²⁵ our attorney has Promised me to attend to the Business himself—I Shall in a few days Set out for the Obion Country again—the[?] waters were

²³William Brittain, Sr., of Buncombe County, served one term in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1821. He was a major political opponent of the Blounts in Buncombe County. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 278; Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 442n.

²⁴Zebulon Beard (sometimes spelled *Baird*) of Buncombe County served numerous terms in the North Carolina General Assembly between 1800 and 1821. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 241-299 passim.

²⁵This was probably Hutchins Gordon Burton (1782-1836), who was born in Virginia but reared in North Carolina. A practicing attorney in Mecklenburg County by 1806, Burton was elected to the North Carolina House of Commons in 1809. He served there until 1810 when he became the state attorney general, a post he held until 1816. Burton moved to the town of Halifax in 1816 and represented it in the lower house for one term. Burton also served in the United States House of Representatives (1819-1824) as an "Anti-Democrat" and as governor of North Carolina (1824-1827). He continued his law practice in Halifax until his death. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 678; Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, IV, 68-71.

generally So full and the (5) Country so overflowen that we could not explore it as we wished to have done, Therefore we have fixed upon this as the most proper Season to examine it again

I Expect to Get home by Christmass, and would be Glad to hear from you by that time, If You can have the one Tried, Should it prove to our expectation I will than make some arrangement to have the Business carried on, to the best advantage, but on all Occasions I previously consult you, Streams of water with Scites Equal to any in the world is Very Convenient to where I under the Ore is, and Timber & rock for any purpose on the Spot so that the principle Expence will provision & Labour to put materials together for the expence of Geting them on the Ground will be Triffling, the Greatest difficulty will be to Get a waggon to the place for the purposes that may be necessary, for it is in the midst of the Greatest of mountains, Your Sons can give you Some Idea of them, for the ore is in Such as the go through in Geting on the Springs down the French Broad river—

When I began this Letter I fully intended to have Sent you a Copy of the agreement that I had drawn up for us to have Sign'd but I some how or other have mislaid it so that I cannot lay my hand on it I remember well of Shewing it to your son at the Springs but have no recollection of Seeing it Since But the purport of it was that we were to Convey to the Said William Tinker W^m Mills, Martin Shelton & Robert Orr an Equal Interest in 500 acres of Land in one or more Tracts (6) that they were use and exercise all their art and Industry for purpose of Carrying on the Business as an Equivalent against the Land, and that for such money as either of the parties Should Lay out more than their proportion in Erecting and carrying on the Business Such party was to Receive 12½ per Cent, and that a Settlement was to take place I think every three months; and that a Deed was to be [manuscript torn] an Equal half or Moiety as soon as they Satisfactorily Shew that the Ore would produce one fourth of an Ounce of pure Silver in each and every pound of the raw ore—this is the Substance of the agreement, But W^m Tinker was the only person who Signed on their part & he Stated that he was authorised to act for Martin Shelton who never has been present at any of our meetings Orr & Mills Seem'd to hesitate on the Ground of their being obliged to use all their Skill & Industry at all times as an Equivelant against the Land, and as the alledged it must be through them that most Essential part must be done, & I on the other hand alledged that the Spirit and meaning of their proposals forward to you was to that amount as well as the express words of the Same and that I could not depart from the Same, and as they Seem'd to hesitate I felt Willing to Shake them off for the Truth is I did not wish to have much to do with him—

If the ore proves Good I have no doubt of obtaining a knowledge of the place at any time—

I was Glad to hear from your Son that you were well pleas'd with the horse that I Sent you, he tells me he can break your Ground where two Small horsses would be required to do the Same I believe I Stated to you that he would make a Good drudge (7) and that I thought he would be fit for no other use, I have made but few Sales this Year, and but few ought to be attempted untill the people are reconciled as to the Validity of the Title, for as things are, you have first to perswade them to purchase and of Course they will be for fixing the price them selves—

Your son I have no doubt have Stated to you the Situation of a Small price of [manuscript torn] Whorth wants Joining him below the Springs, the Chief of which he has now [illegible] also the Situation of a Tract that Lewis Ball wanted to have Settled without any difficulty in Law & your Son made a promise to him of the Land, these are places which my Power do not Extend to *with* your Special directions—

Be So good as to remember me to Each of Your Son's and Receive for Yourself my best wishes, whilst I Submit myself Your Ob^t Serv^t &C—

R^o Love

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
in Beaufort County
N^o Carolina

Waynesville N^o C

Oct 22nd 1819

1820

Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH January 2^d 1820

DSir

I arrived here to day, and have only had time to get acquainted with the great men of the place. I have had no conversation with Mrs Leewell but expect to have some in a day or two, I regret Toms absence, & I sincerely regret the occasion, there lived no woman, with whom I was not more nearly connected, that I esteemed so much. I think it is important that I should have seen you before I left this State. I am very anxious to do so, & William Blount pressed it at me very much to go down & see you, but I do not see how I can do it—at present I expect to leave here on the 10th of this month, in the stage as far as Salem where I left my horse whose back I hurt on [manuscript torn] you see I am on foot at this place—The new Bank¹ paper in our State passes pretty well at present, she has made but a small issue say \$300,000 she has means at present say 200000 dollars in the notes of the [manuscript torn] Banks, besides her debts—but I consider it impossible if she issues to the amount allowed of by Law to keep up her credit for four weeks even at present there is an evident preference given to the paper of the old Banks it is probable that shortly before the next election they may [manuscript torn] largely with views that you know how to appretiate, the [manuscript torn] & Land sales have perhaps not much diminished the quantity of circulating currency considering the supply furnished by the new Bank (2) if the paper of the new Bank was receivable for cotton in allabama, ass [*sic*] the notes of the old Banks are, (concerning which I

¹As a result of the panic of 1819 Middle Tennessee suffered severe economic and financial distress in 1820. Governor Joseph McMinn called the state legislature into special session. Led by Felix Grundy, the legislature created a new Bank of the State of Tennessee, which was completely state owned. It was generally called the "new state bank" to distinguish it from the "old state bank" of which Hugh Lawson White was president. A majority of the stock held in White's bank, unlike the "new state bank," was owned by private investors. Through its loan offices in Nashville and Knoxville, the new bank was authorized to lend at 6 percent interest as much as a million dollars to hard-pressed citizens. Paper money issued by the bank for this purpose was to be backed by money coming in from the state's land sales. The bank had many opponents, including Andrew Jackson, and the state's financial situation became a lively political issue in subsequent state elections. Stanley J. Folmsbee, Robert E. Corlew, and Enoch L. Mitchell, *Tennessee: A Short History* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1969), 140-142. This letter may be mistakenly dated 1820, when in fact it was written in 1821. See Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount, January 11, 1821, below.

have at present no information), it is likely, that that money might be procured, for lands & by laying it out in cotton, which might be turned into northern funds—if a general peace continues, it does seem to me that land must continue to fall still lower than it now is, again they will be farther depressed, on account of the whole of the country where your land mostly lies being in the market, much of this land is held by Speculators who have purchased the land or warrants on credit & who will have to sacrifice their lands to meet their payments—upon the whole, I cannot see how a large some of money could be raised on lands in our state, without great sacrifice, there are some monied men, but I believe their money could be more easily procured on personal credit than on land, whilst you were here I wish you had stayed till I came—I shall write you again before I leave this, & give the news of the suit, I am satisfied, that your interest in the suit cannot be adverse to the interest of the children of William Blount & if they are to be sacrificed one creditor might surely as well collect on another but more of this hereafter, present me to your sons, & affectionately to your Daughters. I made sure of finding some of them [manuscript torn]

P M Miller

Addressed: John Gray Blount
Washington

William Holmes² to John Gray Blount

[January 2, 1820]

Mr. J. G. Blount

Sir

I wrote a few lines by your Son William Showing the hiring I had effected, Mr. Vines³ being anxious to Keep the Girl I hired of him who was pregnant, induced me together with the bargain being a bad one, to give her up. Since I have hired one from Mr. Pritchett⁴ for \$13:75 have

²This was probably William S. Holmes, who is listed in the 1820 census as head of a household of four in Beaufort County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 21.

³For William Vines see 1816, n. 6.

⁴Abisha, Peter, and William Pritchett are listed in the 1820 census. This could refer to any one of them. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 33-34.

given him my note for the Same & requested him to call on you for your Signature, your Compliance will much Oblige your Obt. Servant

W^m S. Holmes

2nd Jan: 1820

[No address]

William S. Holmes's Contract with John Gray Blount

[January 6, 1820]

Articles of Agreement made this Sixth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight Hundred & Twenty Between John Gray Blount of the Town of Washington of the one part and William S. Holmes of the County of Beaufort of the other part Witnesseth that whereas the said John G Blount hath made a contract bearing date the 9th day of Dec^r last with M^r John Jackson for to deliver to the said Jackson a quantity of white Oak Hhd Staves & Heading and the said John G Blount having consented and agreed with the said William S Holmes that he may have the benifit of the one half said Contract on his the said Holmes on his part furnishing one half the trees and an equal number of good hands provisions, tools, Team &^c to get the said Staves & heading & deliver them agreeable to the Contract aforesaid and superintending the whole using every exertion to comply with said Contract & in case of failure to be responsible to the said John G Blount for the one (2) half all loss & damages to which the said John G Blount may be subjected on a failure on his part to perform said Contract. And it is further agreed between the said Blount & Holmes that if the one should furnish trees to make more Staves &^c than the other the one furnishing the most shall be allowed for such surplus one third the same at the tree as compensation for the surplus timber furnished & the expence of halling shall be joint expence so that their staves shall be equal at the place of delivery except that one third for the surplus timber so furnished And to compensate said Holmes his Extra trouble the said John Gray Blount agrees that he will become the security for said Holmes for the hire of four negro men to be employ'd with his the said Blounts hands geting said timber and to furnish Corn, Pork, fish &^c to feed the hands employ'd as aforesaid all which expence of hire of negros, and provisions the said Blount shall have the right to (3) retain in his hands out the proceeds of the Lumber got on the delivery of the same In Witness whereof the parties have here-

unto set their hands & Seals the day & date aforesaid Witness present
W^m Ellison⁵

W^m S. Holmes (Seal)
J G Blount (Seal)

J. C. Stanly⁶ to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 23^d April 1820

Dr Sir

I have this moment been informed that probably you possess some knowledge of a case in which I have some anxiety (viz)

I am told that some number of years ago, you surveyed for Jeremiah Vail⁷ a tract of Land 3 miles from New Bern, will you be so good as to say whither or no it is a fact, and what information you have respecting that Land, as to title, extent &c. it is the land at present between J. C. Stanly & Isaac Taylor.⁸

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington, N^o Carolina

Charles Moules⁹ to John Gray Blount

HYDE COUNTY Sept. 6th 1820

Sir I received your letter concerning Your road but Cannot give you all the perticulars you wis'd, they blowd the horn as I Stated but was a mis-understanding in the time that they was to blow one went in the morn-ing & the other at 12 O clock & therefore did not assertrain the Course & Distance as I Exspected. the water is Still over the Surface of the Ground where they quit Clearing. but if there is not any Great rain in Eight or ten days I think they Can go on & Clear the rest of the way, & perhaps

⁵This was probably William J. Ellison, who represented Beaufort County during the secession crisis and convention of 1861 and 1862. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 386, 824.

⁶This possibly refers to John Stanly of New Bern. See 1803, n. 43.

⁷This might be the Jeremiah Vail who had represented the town of New Bern in the North Carolina provincial legislature (1753-1754). Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 45.

⁸There are numerous Isaac Taylors listed in the 1820 census, although none is shown in Craven County. An Isaac Taylor is listed under Lenoir County, however, which is adjacent to Craven County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Lenoir County, 12.

⁹Charles Moules is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of five. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 15.

by that time they Can go to ditching—ND Tooley¹⁰ has not run the line yet that you requested but Says he will Soon. I will write you as Soon as they can work to any advantage I shall be at washington before many Days & Shall then try & bargain for your land—

Your Obt Servant
Charles Moules

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr
Washington
N. Carolina

Blount & Jackson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK Septem^r 11th 1820

John G. Blount Esqr^r

Dear Sir

We have received yours of the 20th ult & agreeably to directions now forward your acct. with us balancing with \$284.82 in your favour we also forward to you herewith sales of spirits turpentine & rosin rec^d per the sch Louisa last October netting \$102.64

Since we wrote you last wheat has experienced a further decline in price, it may now be quoted at 87 ½ @ 90 cents for prime Virginia & 75 & 85 for North Carolina, and very dull. Southern corn is worth about 45 cents demand extremely limited. Flour about \$4 ½ very little foreign demand for it

Cotten continues in good demand at 19 @ 21 cents. New turpentine meets a pretty ready sale at 16%[?]. Tar has been selling on small parcels at about 20%[?] owing to the scarcity of it in market, but within a few days we have had several arrivals of it & we suppose 16%[?] is as much as could be obtained for it now. North Carolina money is three @ three & a half percent discount. You will observe that [illegible] & gallon were paid for the plains on the 3rd June as charged in your acct. We are very respectfully your m o svts

Blount & Jackson

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Washington N^o Car

¹⁰In all probability this refers to Nathaniel Tooley, who is listed under Hyde County in the 1820 census as the head of a household of six. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 7.

1821

John Haywood¹ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH 6th January 1821

Dear Sir,

As Endorsser of the note made by yourself, M^r Macnair and M^r Thomas H. Blount to the State Bank here, I was called on lasst Week and ruled to acknowledge the Service of a Citation or other Writing, going to Shew that the Said Note was ripe for Renewal, and that it had not been renewed, nor had the required Instelment and Interest been paid— This caused my Calling at the Bank; by the Officers of which I was advised, that it became my duty to write you without delay, and to advise you of my having been ruled to acknowledge the Service of the above mentioned Citation; to the end you may, with all possible dispatch, forward a new Note with the form required for renewal, &^c—This is an unpleasant Task to me, but I was advised that there remained no alternative; and it was added further, that the Bank could neither Suffer delay nor grant indulgence to us, but would f[o]rthwith proceed to enforce Payment, as Soon as the usual time of waiting Shall have expired: I promised to write to you, and assured the Officers that I did not apprehend they would be under the necessity of proceeding further, as the Note &^c might confidently be looked for.

I hope you are in health, and with an Offer of my Regard and best wishes, I remain, much & truly

your friend
John Haywood

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
N^o Carolina

Recommended to
the Care of Major
Blount, of Tarborough

¹For John Haywood see 1805, n. 19.

Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH January 11th 1821

DSir

I leave this place to morrow at two oclock for home I should have been glad & do sincerely wish I had it in my power to come down, but I cannot—Mrs. Blounts cause was argued yesterday—& will be farther argued to day I suppose—if I am not greatly mistaken, I shall pull up the gentlemans shirt collars—my Judgment is that the result is not even doubtful, more however from bad management—than on account of the merriits—it is likely that I shall not know the opinion of the court before I leave here, perhaps not untill next court—Seawall² was not in court but I suppose will be to day, as to your part of the case in any event—there is no doubt—but the debt due by Thomas Blount on the Books ought to have been set—if the release was set aside—it does not appear whither this release covers her claims on Thomas Blounts estate it rather appears that it was a release of her claims on you—tell Rodman that he has Succeeded in his case—but that on the next trial he had better make proof that he made the purchase directed by Brigs—that does not sufficiently appear upon the record sent up—it is possible that Mrs Blounts cause may let Back to Edgecomb—for farther proofs &c if so it is important that I should know it. in that event I have much to say

P M Miller

Addressed: John Gray Blount
Washington

John Haywood to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH 13th January 1821

Dear Sir,

In consequence of a Vissit from the Notary of the State Bank here, it became my duty to inform you, that I had been required to acknowledge

²Henry Seawell (1774-1835), a successful Raleigh lawyer, served several terms in the North Carolina House of Commons (1799-1802, 1810-1812) and as a state senator for Wake County (1821-1826, 1831-1832). In 1803 Seawell was elected state attorney general, a position he held until 1808. He continued his law practice and served as a superior court judge on several occasions. Seawell attended the Constitutional Convention of 1835 as the Wake County delegate and also served as a United States arbitrator during the Treaty of Ghent negotiations in 1823. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, II, 394-397.

the Service of a Citation or Notification going to Show, that the Note made by yourself, your Son Thomas and M^r Macnair, and endorsed by me, lasst fall, to Secure the Payment of a Sum of Money therein mentioned to the Said Bank, was ripe for renewal, and had not been renewed, as required by the Custom & usseages of the Said Bank &^c—I forwarded a Letter by the Mail giving to you this information, Some time passt: and calling this day at the Bank, on other bussiness, was informed that the required Renewal had not yet been made, nor had the Instalment been paid—and it was further Said, that as the day of Grace or time of waiting had nearly expired, Suit would be commenced in a Short time—To my Enquiry, whether I was to expect the Writ to be Served on me, or whether it would be Sent to Washington, in casse of failure? I was answer'd, that the attorney for the Bank would act in that regard as he might think proper—This alarmed or rather made me uneasy, and leads me again to address you on the Same Subject; and to request that you will Send in the required Note &^c without further delay, and thusly prevent further proceedings & difficulty—If I had the Money, I would pay for you; but being without it, or the power of commanding it, I must confidently look forward to your Sending the Note &^c (2) in time to prevent further proceedings: as I Should exceedingly dislike being Sued, or the Suffering Suit to be brought on this Note, after the promisses I made & the assurances I gave the Bank, that no difficulty or delay Should occur, in casse your Note was discounted.

I am pained at being under the necessity of addressing you on this Subject, which I am aware must be unpleasant to you: but necessity has no law.

I offer my Regard & kindest Greetings
and remain, much & truly

Your friend,

John Haywood

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
N^o Carolina

*Thomas S. Singleton³ to John Gray Blount*PLEASANT PLAINS Jan^y 13th 1821

My Dear Sir,

Your's relative to the shipment of corn to Darien, has been rec^d; I had previously engaged a vessel to take my corn to market, or I should have been pleased with the opportunity, afforded by means of your politeness; I have informed M^r Hollowell, that I will deliver him corn to the am^t of your claim agreeably to your proposition; believing, I shall have it in my power to procure enough corn to make up the quantity I engaged to ship. I am truly sorry for the melancholy misfortune your son Thomas has lately experienced;⁴ I heard of it at Tarborough on my (2) return from Raleigh; which was the occasion of my proceeding immediately home with my family, instead of complying with my promise of calling on you; I hope however it will not prevent the young Ladies from visiting us when you come down again. I have a favour to ask of you; it is to prevail on Hall⁵ to offer again for Congress; I have been solicited to offer if he declines & was fool enough to promise it; but my pecuniary affairs will not justify me in such a course at present; if he would serve two years longer, perhaps I might then be able to offer; at present it will be greatly to my injury; I wish this application to be kept secret. With best respects to the young Ladies,

I remain very sincerely
& respectfully your friend
Tho^s S. Singleton

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq.
Washington
N.C.

M^r Clark

³For Thomas Singleton see 1813, n. 19.

⁴This refers to the death of Eleanor Margaret (or Ellen) Brown, Thomas Harvey Blount's first wife, whom he had married in 1810. He remarried in 1827. Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, lx.

⁵For Thomas H. Hall see 1812, n. 21.

Michael King⁶ to John Gray Blount

PLYMOUTH Jan 15th 1821

M^r John G. BlountD^r Sir

as you are the only acquaintance I have in Washington. I would be very glad if you would take my son William to live with you. to keep store or any Buisness in the way of Merchandise. as he have bin in that way of doing business for three years. and now he is out of imployment and he wishes to be in Buisness very much—if you do not want him to live with you I would be very much oblidge to you to try and get him in business as I have Before Stated, he will also write for any one—if you could get him in a Custom house or Counting house he would like it Very much—our family are well I have no news perticcular to write you after which believe me to be your

Respecttfully Michael King

Addressed: M^r John G. Blount
Washington
NC

*Thomas H. Hall to John Gray Blount*H. REPS. Jan 23^d 1821

Dear Sir

When I saw you last we had some talk relative to the insuing election, Singleton was mentioned as probably having a desire to be a Candidate, I have recently been informed that it is his intention to do so. I take the liberty of asking what you know relative to the Business and expect with Confidence a Candid and decisive answer I wish to Know if Singleton is to be a Candidate and under what auspices, you will do me a favor by answering this as soon as possible. There is but one way to let in a federalist two republican Candidates may do this without some republi-

⁶Michael King is listed in the 1820 census of Washington County as the head of a household of six. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Washington County, 4.

can is brought forward I shall have no opposi(2)tion, your immediate attention to this will Oblige me.

Yours &c
Tho^s H. Hall

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington N. C.

J. R. Donnell and J. Stanly to John Gray Blount

NEWBERN Jan'y 30th 1821

Dear Sir

Mr. Smallwood thinks it will be much to his advantage and no doubt it would promote the interest of us all to have laid off to each of us as much land as possible out of that held in common. If it is practicable to divide our Land, on the Canal either seperately or connected with others so that the part of each *one* may be seperated from the rest by a known line we are quite indifferent what part each of us should git. We suppose your acquaintance with the property and the relative value of its different parts, would enable you to make such allotment, as would do entire justice to all concerned. If you could do so, without giving yourself much trouble, you would oblige us all and rest assured we shall be perfectly satisfied with any division you and M^r Smallwood may make, (2) The more extensive the division, the more desirable to us.

We are conscious we have no claim upon your time, or attention to such business, as we are already indebted to you for no little of both.

Be pleased to accept the assurance of our esteem

very respectfully

John G Blount Esq

JR Donnell
J. Stanly

Addressed: John G Blount Esq
Washington
NC

M^r Smallwood

*John Haywood to John Gray Blount*RALEIGH 1st February 1821D^r Sir,

Your favour of the 11th Ult. was brought me by my Brother Sherwood,⁷ on his return from Tarborough, about two weeks after its date—I lost no time, but immediately called at the Bank and mentioned to the Cashier the Subject matter of it—I was aware there could be a difficulty in renewing, for the want of more Money; but the Cashier, being mindful of your kindness towards him in former days, Shewed himself entirely disposed to do all he might venture on; and arranged and Settled the matter as you will perceive by his Note or Mem^o to me, which is herein enclosed.

Pursuant to the wish expressed in yours above mentioned, I Subjoin to this a Mem^o of the Advances made by me towards the Renewals of your Note—I so managed, as to get the Tennessee Money you sent me off and on the Bank, without loss or deduction; and had therefore to advance on your behalf as follows, and no more Viz.

On the first Renewal of your Note	40-50
as Stated in your Letter 19th Sep. lasst.	
On the final Renewal, as mentioned in the	
Cashier Mem ^o to me, & which you have	
enclosed	3-99
	<hr/>
	\$44-49

I hope you continue in health, notwithstanding the late unfavourable weather.

Be assured of my Regard & best wishes, and believe me, much & ever,

Yours,

John Haywood

Addressed John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
N^o Carolina

[Cashier's memorandum omitted]

⁷Sherwood Haywood (1762-1829), a brother of state Treasurer John Haywood, was the cashier for the Bank of New Bern's branch office in Raleigh. Sherwood Haywood also served as the United States commissioner of loans and as a trustee of the Raleigh Academy. His daughter Ann Haywood married William A. Blount, while his daughter Sarah married John Gray Blount, Jr. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, VI, 304-305.

Blount & Jackson⁸ to John Gray Blount

NEWYORK February 15th 1821

John G. Blount Esq:
Washington

dear Sir,

Annexed we hand you sales of cotten received per sch Emeline netting \$207.57 to your credit in account

The schooner Mary Ann has arrived, but the six bales cotten are not yet delivered

Your Bill of the 11th ult^o favour John Haywood was accepted the 31^t

By the arrival of the Packet ship Albion we have accounts from Liverpool up to the 1st January, which are very unfavorable to the cotten market; we are advised of a reduction in prices from the preceding quotations & that a further decline was anticipated so soon as the supplies of the new crop should become abundant. The stock of old cotten in the English mark(2)ets is represented to be extensive. There have not been any sales of cotton of importance since the arrival of the Albion; some small lots of very prime quality have been sold at 15 @ 15 ¼ cents on time. the market is extremely dull & as far as we can judge there is every prospect of a considerable decline from the last sales soon.

No Carolina Money
about 3 per cent dis.

We are very respectfully
Your Most obt svts
Blount & Jackson

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq.
Washington
N.C.

[Prices and accounts omitted]

⁸Joseph Blount was a partner in the Blount & Jackson mercantile firm located at 89 South Street in New York City. *Commercial Directory: Containing A Typographical Description Extent and Productions of Different Sections of the Union* (Philadelphia: J.C. Kayser and Co., 1823), 140. See also 1818, n. 2.

*Thomas Ruffin⁹ to John Gray Blount*HILLSBOROUGH February 15th 1821

Sir,

Many years ago one *James Turner* obtained a Judgement in the Old District Court at this place against a M^r *Hans Patton*,¹⁰ on which a Ca. sa. [*capias ad satisfaciendum*] issued & Patton was arrested & gave a prison bounds Bond, in which M^r Benjⁿ Blount¹¹ & You were his *Sureties*—Afterwards a notice issued on the Bond & a Judgment was rendered on it at October Term 1804, when you paid the Costs & the Debt, except the Sum of £11.10.3, which remained unpaid &, with Interest, is still due, as appears by the Record, which I have examined—This M^r Turner, who is a very particular man, has removed to Tennessee & has written to me to revive the Judgment & collect the balance—The Sum is so Small that I Should very reluctantly bring suit for it & subject you to further Costs, without first giving you notice of it. To this course I am the more especially drawn by being informed that Patton is dead & that you made the former payment & will have to make this out of your own pocket. Should you feel under any obligations to pay the money, you will be pleased to remit it to me as early as convenient—but should you deny the demand or mean to contest the recovery, I shall be obliged to you to inform me immediatly—

I am Sir Your obed^t Sv^t
Thomas Ruffin

⁹Thomas Ruffin (1787-1870), originally from Virginia and educated at Princeton, moved to Hillsborough, North Carolina, and began to practice law in 1808. He served in the North Carolina House of Commons (1813, 1815-1816) and as a superior court judge (1816-1817). He resigned his judgeship in 1817 because of financial difficulties and returned to his law practice. In 1829, however, he was elected to the state supreme court, eventually serving as chief justice of the court beginning in 1833. He resigned this position in 1852 to concentrate on farming and served as president of the state's agricultural society from 1854 to 1860. Ruffin briefly returned to the North Carolina Supreme Court (1858-1859) but spent the remainder of his life practicing law. Opposed to disunion, he joined the North Carolina delegation to the Peace Conference held in Washington prior to the Civil War, but he later voted for secession at the state convention. Ruffin also served as a trustee of the University of North Carolina for many years. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, V, 350-359; Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 360, 687, 689, 690.

¹⁰Hans Patten had once been an employee of John Gray Blount. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 117n.

¹¹Benjamin H. Blount is listed in the 1790 census as a resident of Pitt County. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 437n.

Balance of Debt £11.10.3

Interest from Oct^o 1804.

John Gray Blount Esq.

Washington No Caro

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr

Washington

Beaufort County

N^o C^{ar}

Lovett Bell¹² to John Gray Blount

MONTGOMERY February 16th 1821

Sir Seeing my Nabours geting in the Spirit of Makeing Cotten and wishing to be one amoungst them as a farmer; I sent up my Boy Moses to you for 25 Bushels of seed You will please to send it by them and I will settle with you for the same

the peach trees I told you and your son Thomas I would send you I [sent] one a peace by M^{rs} Turley York he siad he could Not No more as he was full also I sent some Rose Bushes for M^r Leroy I Now send you and your son one more a piece by my boys

I am yours With Much Esteem &
Lovett Bell

John G. Blount Esqr

NB sir I understood by M^r W. Higson Tho^s G. Bell¹³ my son had sent up to you for soom Cotten seed and he was to have caried them down but come of without them you will pleas to send them the first oppor-tunity as I wish to see what my Mattamuskeet Land will do in Cotten &

L B

¹²Lovett Bell is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of eight. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 6.

¹³Perhaps this was the Thomas G. Bell who served numerous terms in the North Carolina General Assembly between 1807 and 1836. Originally representing Camden County, both in the house and in the senate at different times, Bell moved to Pasquotank County and became a representative for that county beginning in 1821. He represented Pasquotank in both houses of the state legislature as well. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 253-258, 263, 265, 279-280, 282, 286-287, 293, 295, 297, 305.



John Gray Blount, Jr., frequently looked after his father's landholdings in Tennessee and attempted to raise money from land sales in times of economic crisis. Photograph from the files of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N.C.

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

TARB^o Feby. 23^d 1821

Mr. Darbey has enclosed me a patent right for erecting Tilfords horse mill for a two horse power— He speaks highly of it; but says nothing about the probable cost, or amount of work it will perform in a given time, nor has he given so full a description of it as would enable *me* to direct the building of one. I am not in a situation to build & if you want a machine of this sort, I will transfer the right to you—I expect a particular description of it from Mr. Hardiman, accompanied with a drawing, which shall be forwarded to you if you think of building—

Please send word to William that Lucy Haywood is here, & that her & M^{rs} Falkner are desirous of visiting Nancy if they can get an escort—

Our love to the family
Your Obt Son
JGBlount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Car^o

Arnold Gray to John Gray Blount

LAKE LANDING¹⁴ HYDE COUNTY Feb^{ry} 28th 1821

Sir, It is the request of Mr. Lavender Wilkins that I should ask information of you regarding his application for admission into the Military School at West Point.

He is now in suspense respecting the fate of his application; & as he has had no answer or information from you, notwithstanding his application by Letter for advice from you, he becomes dubious of his success in gaining admission into that School though he should possess the necessary qualifications. He has now acquired a tolerable knowledge of English Grammar, and Arithmetick, having past through Vulgar and Decimal Fractions, and will continue to pursue these studies some little time longer. These two branches of Education, with Reading & Writing which he had already acquired, being the requisite qualifications & the only ones known to him, You will be so kind as to direct him how to proceed in order to his successful admission into said School. What vouchers of his qualification & recommendation of his character are necessary to be sent and where should they be sent? Does he undergo an examination, and where is he examined? Does he wait here for his Commission (2) and Orders to attend at Westpoint or proceed thither without either or elsewhere for examination? Would you reply to these interrogatories and give him the necessary information and direction your condescension would oblige your humble Servant

Arnold Gray

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Washington
Beaufort County
N.C.

¹⁴Lake Landing is a town in Hyde County. It lies along the southeast shore of Lake Matamuskeet. The county court was held there from about 1820 to 1836. Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*, 269.

John Hardeman to John Gray Blount

Feby. 28th 1821

Sir

I am now at the house of our mutual friend Willie Blount Esq^r having progressed no farther than this place, though I have waded through mud for one month In Murfreesborough, agreeably to your request, I called on John M. Tilford and asked his permission to see his *improved* horse mill—The mill had been erected merely as an experiment, had never been covered in, the place on which it had been raised was sold a short time after, and the mill was not now in operation I then requested of him to show me a model of his improvement, & he said he had none & the man who usually made models for him was not to be seen

You will infer from these circumstances, that the opinion of the people in the Country was about the same as the one I expressed to you when at your house, (to wit) that its advantages were *nothing* In conversing the same day with a friend of mine who is a good mechanic I discovered that his opinion was no advantage was gained by the application of the propelling power in the way stated in Tilford's patent—the Angle of the plane on which the horse walks is about 30 degrees

(2) You are capable of demonstrating the impossibility of increasing the momentum of the wheel by this application of the force Suppose a wheel 30 feet diameter and the plane on which the horse walks to be 30 degrees of elevation, he could not produce a greater force thus situated, than if he were fastened to one end of a Seven one third part of the semi-diameter of the wheel which would be $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet; and though his motion would be but one third of the motion of the periphery, his power would not be more than what is stated above

Your friends are here in good health and desire to be presented to you & lady in respect

Your friend &c
John Hardeman

Major John G Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

M^r Harril

John Stanly to John Gray Blount

NEWBERN 4 May 1821

Dear Sir,

The Board authorize me to say, your Note for Three thousand dollars, payable at Ninety days, will be discounted when offered.

I am dissatisfied, and indeed mortified that the accomodation is less than you desired, but the fear of doing new business, so pervades the board, that nothing but special favor toward you could have obtained even the sum offered—besides the objection to new loans arising from the State of the Institution, the delinquency of our friends on tar river operates against applications from that quarter—You will say at foot of the note that it will be paid in full when due—You will add such names as will satisfy these very timid men that they are safe—

Your obed Serv^t

J. Stanly

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq.
Washington
N^o C^a

Joseph B. Hinton¹⁵ to John Gray Blount

RIVER SHORE May 10th 1821

Dear Sir,

Interest as well as duty, urge me to seek, with as little delay as possible, the adjustment of Robert Salters Estate,¹⁶ at least, so far as C. D. G. Wolford¹⁷ is concerned therein. Life is very uncertain with us both: for my part I dare not venture on the expectation of an hour, I feel so sensibly, that each succeeding day is a *renewal* of my life. It will admit of no doubt, that *we* can adjust it more consistently with your interests,

¹⁵ Joseph B. Hinton served as clerk of the Beaufort County court in 1823 and was a state senator from 1829 through 1830 and again in 1832. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 292, 294, 298; Shanks, *Papers of Willie Mangum*, I, 520.

¹⁶ For Robert Salter and the settlement of his estate see 1807, n. 33.

¹⁷ Charles D. G. Wolford appears in the 1820 census as the head of a household of two. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 43.

than others can for us: and believing the accounts to be voluminous, and from the lapse of time, intricate, and that no little difficulty might arise, or will from *them*, as also from the Sales of Lands authorised and Sales unauthorised by the Will, if Strictly tested by the rules of Justice and Equity. Fearing difficulties might arise, perhaps sufficient to preclude all hope of an adjustment upon the *face* of the *accounts*, I proposed taking the Windmill point Lands,¹⁸ as a Summary mode of closing the Matter. I did believe, then, and I must adhere to the belief, until my error is made apparent, that Wolfords interests fairly metted out by Justice & Equity, will exceed the Value of that property—yea, greatly exceed it. all my sources of information are grossly erroneous and deceptive if it is not so. However, as you have thought proper to reject that mode of adjustment, I am now open to receive a proposition from you. If you can with a few days reflection, settle on any one, you think worthy the occasion, I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Very Respectfully
Jos B Hinton

J. G. Blount. Esq^r

Enclosed is your transcript. Jos Bonner will put the County Seal to it if you send it up to him.

Addressed: Jno. G. Blount Esqr
Washington

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE 12th May 1821

My Dear Sir,

After much fatigue and great delay occasioned by the badness of the roads and other causes I arrived here yesterday, and fear my journey will be of little service to you & perhaps less to myself—

Mr. Blackfan your agent in Nashville left here the day before my arrival for Philadelphia where I am informed he will remain some time, prob-

¹⁸Three possible locations, each named Windmill Point, could be the one referred to here. The first lies in Carteret County and extends into White Oak River. The second is a point of land at the entrance to Silver Lake on Ocracoke Island in southeast Hyde County. The third Windmill Point is located in Pamlico County and extends into Bay River. Powell, *North Carolina Gazetteer*, 539.

ably 'till the fall—this I consider a serious inconvenience as thro' him I calculated much of my business would be done as he must have a better idea of the lands, their value &c. than I can obtain by any other means and presume he has many papers important in making sales—if so what can or must be done? It is the opinion of William founded on a visit to that Country lately, and frequent conversations with others on the subject that a sale of lands cannot be effected at any sacrifice which may be made to any extent, that there is not money in the Country I am well convinced of N. C. or Virginia—tho' I left home resolved to raise you the money wanted, I hear such frequent complaints & see along the road such sacrifices by the Sheriffs I really despair of success—but if the amount you mention *must* be raised, if *all* your lands in Tennessee will effect it, it shall be done, and nothing on my part shall be wanting to effect the object. I have said thus much that you may form some idea of the prospect and how I am situated in the absence of Mr. Blackfan—if he has left an agent I do not know, but I see many of your Chickasaw lands advertised for taxes to sell in August. I shall leave here in the morning for Nashville.

P. Miller informs me that the counsel of Mrs. B. endeavoured to procure a decree against me personally at the last Supreme Court—the Judges have not yet given their opinion & whether they will personally subject me I do not know; I wish you would write to Sewell to attend to my interests in the suit, for having always understood the object was to subject the lands only of Tho. Blount I felt satisfied with their proceedings. the next Court sits early in July, I believe—Tho' I feel very anxious to hear often from home, I cannot expect to receive a letter during my absence from the aversion of the family to write, such being the case they must not be surprised at not hearing from me during my absence unless I am gratified with letters from them—from you I hope to hear often & particularly—

Yours affectionately
Thos. H Blount

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount
Beaufort County
Washington
N. Carolina

*Robert Love¹⁹ to John Gray Blount*WAYNESVILLE 18th of May 1821John G Blount Esq^r

Sir,

On the reception of your Letter I Shew that part of it to M^r Gooch relative to him, he now has it in request to know whether you will receive \$500 from him which is the original Sum that John Strother first Sold the land for (to a M^r Gilliam) and he will then look to Strothers Executor for his redress, the money will be placed in my hands if you Say so & which can be forwarded to Raleigh this fall either by the Sheriff or members of the Assembly & there Lodged ready for your order—The Land M^r Gooch represents to me to be of thin Soil & no water nearer than half a Mile except in the Winter Season, it is Situated on the head of Elk or near there he Says that there is a well dug but it Goes dry—

M^r Gooch has Sold the Land and is likely to be injured by not being able to make the Tittle—he thinks that Strother in the first Instance Sold the Land as your agent—

as respects information of your Westren District Land rest well assured that every thing relative ther to that may come within my knowledge or my (2) Brothers²⁰ will be most freely given—my Brother and son William had Set out for that Country before your Letter came to hand, If any information Such as you ask can be obtained from them on their return I will write you immediately—This winter my self & Brother design to explore the Country in all its parts & expect to make a division of our Lands, they amount to some where about 100,000 acres that is the whole that we are Interested in probably ours 40,000—and are Scattered over a Great deal of the Country which will give us an oppertunity of Seeing more than we otherwise would, and if you will forward to me Special Memorandums of Such as you are the most particular about I will attend to the Same with Cheerfullness—

I am deeply engaged at this time in opening the road through this County which I Contracted to do when I Saw you last, as to my Share of the Business I am doing all within myself, Money being with us an object, and my hands I find could not be better employed—

¹⁹For Robert Love see 1817, n. 16.

²⁰Love was probably referring here to Thomas Love. See 1819, n. 1.

my Compliments to all your family and receive for yourself my best wishes—

Respectfully &c
R Love

John G Blount Esq^r

(3) NB write to M^r John Gooch immediately on the reception of this letter if you please that he may know what to depend on—

R Love

If you Comply with his request in Receiving the \$500 he wishes you to instruct your agent in West Tennessee to make the deed to himself or to his order

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
Beaufort County
No Carolina

Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 19th May 1821

Dear Sir,

Mrs Collins will be at your place this day or, tomorrow week next, if nothing occurs to prevent her, on her return home from Newburn; would you do me the favor to inform me by her of your prospects of discharging the [illegible] vs you at my instance and now in the hands of the Sheriff of your County? it would be highly gratifying to me to learn that you have succeeded in procuring the funds requisite to that end—

With great respect I am
D^r Sir yr obt sev^t
Josiah Collins

If an earlier oppty offers than by Mrs C by which you can write to me, should be glad you would do so—

Jno Gray Blount Esq^r—

Addressed: Jn^o Gray Blount Esq^r
 Washington
 N C

mail

Henry Smith to John Gray Blount

May 21st 1821

Sir,

Some time passed I wrote to you relative to your Western lands at that time I had made and thought a Sale of the principle part of my landed estate & under that impression I commenced the correspondence which possibly might have brought about a trade between us but as the Gentleman afterwards refused to confirm the contract further communications in the shape they first assumed become unnecessary I now bring fourth the subject a new by way of an exchange of Lands with you for some of your land lying in the last purchase made of the Chickasaw nation of Indians on the forked Deer the loose hatchee or wolf rivers or in that section of the country, my Land is situated on Roanoke River near the great falls & within a half a mile of the town of Weldon where the canal now cutting is contemplated to be let into the river the tract contains by Survey 1272 acres 1076 acres of which lie within Mush Island & for the purposes of agriculture if equaled is not exceeded by an tract of my knowledge on the river & what gives it a decided advantage over most Roanoke farms is its elivated Situation the balance of the tract is high land & valuable for its timber & as a place for a family residence the Island has I suppose about 650 acres of land cleared the balance is in woods & the whole with the exception of 20 or 25 acres might be made fit for cultivation too with very little ditching—to give you some idea of the value of the land in the estimation of disinterested persons I have since the change of times been offered \$45000 for it this statement is merely made to give you an idea of its value that if you are disposed to barter that you may not think it unworthy your attention (2) by way of preliminaries to a bargain it might not be amiss for you to state where your land is Situ-

ated its description & what would be the price of select parcels of 1000. or more acres in tracts an immediate answer will be thankfully received.

I am respectfully yours &c.

Henry Smith

[Address missing—manuscript torn]

William Polk²¹ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH May 25 1821

Sir.

I have this day rec^d your letter of the 22nd of September last; by which it would seem; that you were impressed with a belief that I was to cancel the Judg^t had against you by the acceptance of a Land Warrant, at what rate you have not said—I have no recollection of such an agreement; ever having been made with you or with any one for you; so far from it; that I was not a little surprised, yesterday, to know from my Att^o that the Judg^t had not as yet been satisfied—I regret (2) that this is the case inasmuch as the non payment, has & will give me more trouble than I had expected.

I am respectfully
Y^r Mo Ob^{dt}
Will. Polk

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington N.C.

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o Tues. May. [1821]

In conversation with John respecting your offer to the Heirs of William Blount he informs me that W. B. transferred *all his western lands* to Pierce

²¹For William Polk see 1805, n. 22.

Butler²² of Phil^a and that he was once on a bargain with Irwin²³ to give Allison's judg^t for W. B. interest in those lands—was your offer to the heirs made under such information, or is it only for the Interest of W. Blount in the mercantile concern? and if so what think you of the bargain with Irwin for W. B. interest in those lands. It has occurred to me since I saw you that 'twould be desirable to give and receive a full discharge to Willie Blount as the means of settling a law suit between you & his children—if he owes you will never get it—if you do—you know nothing of the business—Write me at Nashville as early as convenient & send Tho. Blount's judg^t

Yours affectionately
Thos. H. Blount

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
Mr Rodman

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

June 4th 1821

I was much disappointed in finding you absent, as I could have given you a much more satisfactory account of the Tennessee business, & the prospect in that quarter, than I can possible do by letter—

The money the Girls will hand you is all I could collect after making every exertion & remaining in the country some months without any other object— I made no sales of either lands or warrants & the note due to the estate of R. Blount for warrants, Uncle Willie had passed away on his private Acct. Warrants could have been sold at \$2 for notes; but would not com^d cash at more I think than 1.25 or \$1.50— The drawing for priority of entry takes place on the first wednesday in Nov^r next & the early drawn numbers will probably bring from 10 to \$20 p^r Acre & the last drawn, not less than they are now selling for, I therefore thought it best to delay the sacrifice if one must be made—I left (2) with Mr Blackfan (in whose abilities & integrity I have the highest confidence) a power of Att^o & directions to sell warrants if he could, at an average of \$2 & land at its value—I have tried to light a considerable quantity of

²²For Pierce Butler see 1803, n. 103.

²³For James Patton and Andrew Erwin see 1810, n. 27.

warrants & certificates which were not before in possession & overlooked—the precise quantity you will have, I do not recollect; but a statement will be forwarded from Tarb^o when Sally arrives with my papers—I eventually succeeded in getting a settlement with Maj^r Lockhart Exc^r of J. Strother—we after losing much time in adjusting the Acc^t compromised by his giving his note for \$5000 payable \$3000 at the end of three years & the balance one year after, with interest from the date—A full statement shall also be forwarded—In his Acc^t rendered there are items which must be charged in a settlement with W^m Blount & others viz their proportion for Strothers services, & expences attending the law suit with Pillow & Hadley, taxes &^c—I have mentioned to my Brother every thing that I could think of & which I thought it probable you would have enquired about—And regret very much the situation of my affairs is such as to prevent my remaining until your return

affectionately your Ob^t Son
JG Blount

P.S. I have some good grounds for hoping you will recover your debt against D. Allison (the whole amount) I enclose the notes (3) I mentioned to Mr J. Haywood & to Mr. McNair your instructions to me to sell lands for the payment of your note to the letter—Mr. Haywood has suggested a plan which it was thought would meet your approbation—The enclosed form of a note with the Mem^o on the back will explain it—in addition, he offered to attend to the business at Bank & altho not a monied man would in cases of necessity do what he could in making advances of the p^rC^t required by the bank when it was out of your power to do so—I believe they require 5 p^rC^t every 90 days but this is matter of memory—M^r McNair *unsolicited* offered to join in the note if wished—

There was a resolution of the last session of the Leg^t directing the Treasurer to refund you a sum (say part of \$140) which you had over paid for taxes—Owing to the want of the proper endorsment it could not be paid; but M[r] J Haywood said he would take it up or send it to Mr. P. Henderson²⁴ the Clk. & prevail on him to make them & then it should be paid to your order—

JGB

²⁴ Pleasant Henderson (1755?-1842?), originally from Granville County, North Carolina, lived in Chapel Hill. Henderson, an officer during the Revolutionary War, served as clerk of the North Carolina Council of State (1781-1784), as clerk of the Orange County Superior

This is some Tennessee money. N. Ca^r could not be had, the most I got was from travelers on the road

Addressed: JG Blount Esq^r

Wilson B. Hodges²⁵ to John Gray Blount

TYRRELL COUNTY JUNE 5th 1821

J. G. Blount Esq^r

D^r Sir

I have the pleasure of informing you that our Tax has been reduced from \$40: to \$6 and some odd cents p^r Year. this is a wide difference between the sums; and the inclemency of this past Fall and winter prevented my having the land Surveyed. I wish you would be so good as to send me down the old patents of this land as I believe the presence of the patent would prevent any law Suits; with those persons who may have encroached upon the premises.

I had the pleasure last week at Washington County Court House of seeing our two Candidates for a seat in Congress. I think M^r Clark

Court in 1782, as private secretary to Governor Alexander Martin, and as reading clerk of the state House of Commons from 1807 to 1829 "on account of his sonorous voice." While living in Chapel Hill, Henderson also acted as a justice of the peace and as steward of the University of North Carolina. Henderson speculated in western lands throughout this period and moved to Carroll County, Tennessee, in 1830. Shanks, *Papers of Willie Mangum*, I, 155n.; Kemp P. Battle, *History of the University of North Carolina from Its Beginning to the Death of President Swain, 1789-1868*, Volume I; *From 1868-1912*, Volume II (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 2 volumes, 1907, 1912), I, 53, 159, 193, 233, 314; Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 163-164, 253-293 passim; Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 334-335; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 180; Hoyt, *Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*, I, 176n.

²⁵Wilson B. Hodges represented Hyde County in the North Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1835 and in the North Carolina Senate (1842-1843). Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 311, 817.

understands *electioneering* much better than Doct. Hall.²⁶ I think the Contest will be warm in Washington City—but in this County Hall will get an unanimous vote. the people of this County (with the exception of a few) are determined to support Hall. there are but few respectable Characters in this County but will do their utmost to leave the magnanimous General at home; and I think there will be but little doubt of his enjoying the comforts of his own fire Side the ensuing winter. hoping this may find you enjoying good health. I conclude by subscribing myself

Yours with Respect and
Esteem
Wilson. B. Hodges

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington N^o Ca

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE 15th June 1821

My Dear Sir,

Yours of the ult. respecting your loan was not rec^d by me at this place 'till the 3rd Inst. so that 'twas impossible to answer you by the time desired, & that being past, declined writing 'till I could be better enabled to give you some general information relative to your affairs in this quarter—

I have before informed you of the absence of Blackfan your agent and McLemore²⁷ your locator—I am but now informed the first will be here early in August, the latter the ensuing week—All the land of J. G. & T. B.²⁸ originally entered by them in the Western District are advertised for taxes in their name, among which I presume are included those sold Spaight and Sheppard—As the sale will not take place before the return of Blackfan I shall do nothing with respect to them, but if he should not return in time I must by some means raise money to pay them, as 'twill ruin all I trust to the Legislature for relief—From any (<2) information I

²⁶For Thomas H. Hall see 1812, n. 21. The Mr. Clark mentioned as Hall's opponent was probably James West Clark (1779-1843) of Bertie County. He had already served in both houses of the General Assembly and as a representative in the Fourteenth Congress (1815-1817). He died in Tarboro on December 20, 1843. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 743.

²⁷For John C. McLemore see 1811, n. 7.

²⁸This is a reference to John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount.

can obtain, the chance of selling land is small, if one half its value is required—Small tracts of the new locations may sell this fall for cash at a reduced price but if money is demanded I doubt whether 500 acres could be sold to any one person unless at a discount of 50 p Cent from its nominal value—I have sold 360 acres at 4\$ and 'tis considered a good sale for cash—the Land was estimated at 5\$ on a credit of 12 mo. I therefore thought 4 was doing well—Whatever can, shall be done previous to my return, but should like much to hear from you any [illegible] on the subject, for I assure you a few lines afford me neither pleasure nor information—Discount on Tennessee paper for N.C. 22 p.C. *scarce*. P. Butler under a deed from Will. Blount has sued R. Thompson for a 1280 acre tract lying in Humphrys county which you sold him—'twill be hard you should have to pay for this tract & not be paid for it (which I suspect is the case) but know not how you will avoid it, unless you can shew you were the equitable owner—I have spoken to M^r Whitesides and he will in a few days give me an opinion on the subject, so that I am getting into business of a very different nature from the original motive of my journey—As to myself—I am nearly the same as when I (3) saw you, but have consulted an eminent physician & am now under a course of medicine—the effect I do not know & the final event is & will be of little consequence to one who has nothing to stimulate him to *exertion*—My love to my sisters—

Yours affectionately
Thos. H. Blount

Jno. G. Blount Esq^r

Yours of the 19^t May is this moment handed me—I have given you a view of things in this quarter & cannot think any thing effectually can be done before the last of Sep^r What can be done I will do—

[No address]

Wright C. Stanly²⁹ to John Gray Blount

[June 18, 1821]

My Dear Sir

During the last week I saw many of the farmers of *our* County and had an opportunity of hearing from many of the neighbouring ones—The

²⁹Wright C. Stanly represented Craven County in the North Carolina Senate in 1814. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 265.

universal opinion is, that, since the memory of man, never was there so hard a winter as the one past and never was there known so unpropitious a spring and one in which so much rain had fallen—The late heavy and continued rains have materially injured both our corn and our cotton—

Hundreds of acres of cotton, in the Counties of Onslow Jones & Craven, have been abandoned—Some have replanted with corn but most have entirely surrendered it to the grass—

Our Corn, which (2) before the rains of the week before last, was green and flourishing, is now overcast with a yellowish and sickley hew—

The above is as nearly as I can learn the fate of our farmers in this part of the State—

We call the farmer's life, the life of independence—It is so—Under our own vine and our own figtree, we can enjoy, with those connected to us by the tender ties of friendship, the fruits of our own industry from our own soil—But surely it is also the life of hazard and is as much checkered by adversity and success as is the life of a merchant—Witness the present prospects of our farmers—But a few weeks ago, we were promised an abundant harvest; now, we ought to be thankful if we gather half crops—

I leave this in two or three (3) days with my Aunt (M^{rs} Badger) for her Son's in Warren—I shall stay a few days there, say a week, and shall then return home taking Washington in my way—Present me to the young ladies of your family and believe me

My Dear Sir sincerely
your friend
W C Stanly
June 18th 1821
Newbern N^o Ca

John G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
N^o Ca

M^r Leroy

C. C. Cambreleng³⁰ to John Gray Blount

NEWYORK 21 June 1821

John G. Blount Esq^r

dear Sir,

I duly received your favor of the 2^d inst and would have replied to it earlier, but for one recent and melancholy visitation—

I have made enquiry and find it impracticable to do anything in the way you propose; unless I would give my own name here, which I cannot do without violating one of the conditions of our partnership: and as a proposition in business, it is not such a one as I could with propriety make to the house—

Money is very plenty here but our capitalists are unwilling to loan it on mortgage upon lands at a distance, unless they have some friend to examine them and give their opinion; and in such cases they will not loan except for a long term, it being no object to them to loan their money on mortgage for short periods—In short when the property proposed lies at a distance it is very difficult to make the security satisfactory—

I am very respecty—

Y^r mo obt sv^t

C. C. Cambreleng

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
No Carolina

³⁰Churchill Caldom Cambreleng (1786-1862) was born in Washington, North Carolina, and was educated in New Bern. He moved to New York City in 1802 and became the confidential clerk to John Jacob Astor. Eventually he ran his own mercantile business. From 1821 to 1829 he served as a New York Democratic-Republican in the United States House of Representatives. President Martin Van Buren appointed him minister to Russia in 1840 and Cambreleng served in that position until July, 1841. He is buried in Brooklyn, New York. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 694; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 13-14.

*Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount*NASHVILLE 27^t June 1821

My Dear Sir,

Since my last M^cLemore has returned to this place and informs me that your lands are all located and he thinks well done—in a few weeks he will have a connected plan of all the District, so that on my return I trust I shall be able to give you a pretty correct idea of the situation & value of your lands in that section of the State—It is the opinion of several from the Western District that lands may be sold this fall, but now, I cannot at any price—below there is not a purchaser, and here not one able if willing—besides at the present depreciation of their paper, 'twould realise nothing—I assure I have & will do all I can but 'tis not in my power to compel people to part with their money, & they will at this time do any thing rather than invest it in land—

Yours sincerely
Thos. H. Blount

[Note in margin] Will you direct Jacob to make the negroes grub & clean up the ground where the Brick yard was—I want to use it if I ever return—

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Hamilton Fulton³¹ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH 13 July 1821

John G. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

I found the Creeks so much swelled by the rains that I could not by any means form an idea of the ordinary summer water issuing from the

³¹Hamilton Fulton was an English engineer who specialized in making canals, bridges, railroads, and in draining swamps. He was hired by the state of North Carolina in 1819 to develop and implement a comprehensive internal improvements program in cooperation with local businessmen and the state's internal improvements board of commissioners. One

Swamp—I was informed at M^r Kelly Williams Mill that it was rarely they were obliged to stop the grist mill during summer, both the Robinsons thought if their dams were tight the[y] would seldom or never feel the want of water. I was very much pleased with the ground I passed over it is very favorable for Canal purposes. I am however of opinion that the navigation might be let into the Creek at Harmon Robinsons mill and pass from thence to M^r Yarnals mill, below which M^r Yarnal thinks the course is not very circuitous and would not be expensive to render navigable as there are no other obstructions than trees and logs. I crossed it at 3 or 4 places and found it a very slow running stream with a super abundance of water at the time

(2) While I was on the Survey of Occracock Bar I had Richard Summers and a young man an Englishman with me as Boatmen the young man called himself William Slater. I have received a letter from his father who is a respectable man in London and who is desirous he should return home. if you will be kind enough to enquire of Summers if he knows any thing of him I shall be much Obligated. he is an only son (a prodigal I suppose) his father is wealthy and advanced in life and seems anxious to see him before he leaves the world, he calls himself William, I understand his real name is Joseph, if you think an advertisement in the Washington papers will do any good I shall send one for insertion.

I remain

Dear Sir

Your most Obed Serv^t

Hamilton Fulton

Addressed: John. G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N.C.

of his major concerns was to form a canal system linking the state's major eastern rivers with one another to export agricultural products through Beaufort, on the lower Albemarle Sound, because of the unstable navigational conditions along the Ocracoke Inlet. Fulton concentrated on the Roanoke, Tar, and Neuse rivers and the towns of Williamston, Washington, and Beaufort in surveying the proposed canal area. He praised Washington as a "port of entry" for the Tar River, based on a canal route survey "from the mouth of Blount's Creek, below Washington, to the top of the ridge dividing the waters of the Tar from those of the Neuse." The state's ambitious plans, jointly financed by the state and private partnerships, never materialized, and Fulton was forced to resign in 1825 because of the lack of progress. Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 316; Hoyt, *Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*, II, 136-138, 143-144; Samuel A. Ashe, *History of North Carolina, From 1584 to 1783*, Volume I; *From 1783-1925*, Volume II (1925; reprint ed., Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Company, 1971), II, 259, 287, 302, hereinafter cited as Ashe, *History of North Carolina*.

*Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount*NASHVILLE 3rd August 1821

My Dear Father,

Yours of the 25 June was recd. and to day one of the 6 July arrived—I must rejoice your time has past as you desired, and flatter myself with the hope by the last of September you may be able to comply with your promises—Be assured that no exertions or sacrifices on my part shall be wanting to effect your object—I wrote you fully on the subject last week, since when nothing has occurred, except that on the 7^t Inst. a company will proceed to examine your lands under a partial agreement at 2\$ provided they take 5000 acres in a [illegible] the *old granted lands*; this I know will be a great sacrifice, but better here than in N.C. of negroes—at any rate if the money can be had in N. York at 10 p Cent 'tis better to take than risque this, for the difference in premium will more than pay, & If I sell the money could remain here in Bank 'till the exchange is up—I shall however proceed (2) as tho' all depended on me—I have written to Knoxville to ascertain if a loan can be had of Dolls. 4000 'till the 1^t Nov. when I can repay it from funds here but do not calculate on much from that source—I regret much the situation of my Sister & trust in God that in this she has recovered—Yourself & her are the only beings whose loss I could not bear—She is my all, & without her I could well depart without a murmur—Give my love to her & the family generally & believe me to be sincerely yours

Thos. H. Blount

P.S. Tell Caroline³² I recd. hers in June & thank her—My health is sometimes better, but riding half a day throws all the bile on the surface again—but my Physician pretends to entertain the hope that a long & [r]egular course of Mercury & Bark will effect a great change if not a perfect cure—I have no such hope—

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

³²This was probably Thomas's cousin, the daughter of Reading Blount. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 107n.

*Joseph Blount to John Gray Blount*NEW YORK 4th August 1821

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 13th ult^o reached me a few days since in Saratoga County—I arrived here to day to attend to that and some other business that required my personal attention and I am sorry to be obliged to inform you that I failed in obtaining a loan for you—When I reached here from Carolina I was informed by a Person that he would gladly make the loan provided he was satisfied of the Security of Debt—knowing that M^r D Clark was well known to him induced me to suggest to you the propriety of procuring a Letter from him and upon receiving it I had no doubt but that the money could be obtained on the terms I wrote you but upon making the application to day I find that the Person is not disposed to make the loan because neither you or your proposed Security are known (2) to him—without which he could not be satisfied as to the Security of the Debt and pay^{mt} of Interest—I stated your willingness to give a mortgage—his objection to that was that being for money borrowed at 7 per Cent it would be voidable—I do not know of any other person who would be willing to make the Loan—It is generally difficult for persons residing in N. Carolina to procure loans here—in case of Death Executors & administrators have not always thought themselves bound to make payments of interest punctually nor to pay the principal here and the Expenses of collection in N. Carolina being generally 5 per Cent & the loss on remittances from 2 @ 5 per Cent more would deter most capitalists from making investments in North Carolina.

M^r Jackson informs me that he wrote you lately as to the State of our market for your produce since when there has been no change. I am sorry to learn that the Crops in Carolina have been so much injured by the wet weather—the Crops in this part of the State are said to be good—To the North the Indian (3) Corn has been injured somewhat for the want of Rain—The small grain & grass was very good—

I am very respectfully yours
Jos. Blount

John G. Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^{re}
Washington
N. Carolina

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE 4 Sept^t 1821

My Dear Sir,

I had fondly indulged the hope that by this time I should by sales, collections, or loans (for I have tryed all) been able to raise the sum you wanted, but my source has failed notwithstanding all the exertions I could make—I have gone so far as to offer Land worth 5\$ at 2\$ for cash, but there is really but little money in this part of the Country and that is held up for shaving—I have however ascertained *certainly* that by the 1st of Nov^r I can get 4000\$—but it will be in *Silver*, and what I can do with that sum I do not know—Gold or U.S. notes is 3 or 5 p.Cent higher & for the Silver I shall have to give 20 to 23 p.Cent—I wish you would give me your ideas on this business, in fact you write so seldom, & then so little that I know not what to think or do—Could you imagine my situation I must believe you would devote a few of your leisure moments in writing me, for tho' you may think you have nothing interesting to communicate, *any thing* from Washington is so to me—(2) I wrote you a few days since by M^r Rueben & hope you have rec^d it—Let me intreat you to write me often—'tis distressing enough to be here in my situation but more so to be deprived of the happiness of hearing from home, when there are a dozen there who having nothing to do, I almost fear that I have by some means lost the affections of my Brothers & Sisters if I ever had it, for not a line have I rec^d from any one of them since I left you, except Polly Ann—³³

yours affectionately
Thos. H. Blount

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

³³This reference is to Polly Ann Blount Rodman.

John Hogg³⁴ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH NC. 9th Septem^b 1821

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

Valuing in your fondly regard, I have to apprise you that I am a Candidate for the Comptrollership at the ensuing Gen^l Assembly, and the present is to solicit your good offices with such of the Members as you have influence with—

As to my fitness and capacity to hold the Office to you I presume it is unnecessary to say anything and I shall only add that, if appointed, I pledge myself that I can & will within the space of two years exhibit the financial concerns of The State in the Books of the Comptroller, stated in a more clear and comprehensive (and permit me to say in a more masterly) manner & view than they have ever been—

I request a reply hereto, at your convenience, address^d to me at Fayetteville, & whether favourable or not to my wishes will carry no diminution in that regard and respect in which you have ever been held by

Dear Sir.

Y^r friend & Serv^{nt}

John Hogg

Washington
NC

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
Beaufort County
N^o Car^a

³⁴For John Hogg see 1803, n. 6.

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount, Jr.

NASHVILLE 12th October 1821

Dear John,

Yours of the 25th Ult. has this morning been rec^d. I was unprepared for such a letter as the last I rec^d induced me to believe my father would be able to negotiate his business in N. York and had made arrangements for leaving this on the 20th by which time I shall probably receive 2000\$—my journey is certainly postponed 'till the 1st of December and I have no reason to hope to succeed by that time, but to remain after that day is useless as your promise expires the 25th of Dec^r and if I cannot raise the amt. by that time why delay is useless—I do not know how it can be done—I have already offered Lands (& choice) at 2\$—others at 1\$—while others are selling at 5\$ by crediting 6 & 12 mo—if I sell the paper is 23 p.Cent depreciation—I have no assistance—all others almost are wishing to sell and as for your agent—he is a man cypher so far as it respects any active agency—from this you may judge of my situation and feelings—to undergo the same again for 6 mo. I would not for the state of Tennessee—The damn'd inhabitants of an infernal place have not contributed any thing to the improvement of the health of one, formerly bad, but now from the confinement in one place & anxiety of mind respecting this business, that I am really incapable of any thing & worn down by continual fever 'till I (2) have the appearance of an inhabitant of another world—I wish you to inform my father of your hearing from me, for I have determined not to write another letter during my residence here; I hear from none of them, I remain hear sacrificing my health, happiness & peace of mind to enable my father to procure a fortune for those who neither think or care for me—I have no interest in it, for I cannot possibly survive another year—deprived of those who were so dear to me, neglected if not disliked by nearest relatives, not one real friend on earth, and a constitution broken & worn down, both present & future pleasures are gone or cannot be enjoyed—My love to Polly, who I hope yet thinks of me—

Farewell
Thos. H Blount

Addressed: Major John G Blount
Tarborough
Edgecombe County
North Carolina

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount

MURFREESBOROUGH Tue. 21st Oct. 1821

My Dear Sir,

I rec^d a letter a few days since from John, stating that he had borrowed on your acct. of the Bank at Raleigh 6000\$ and had given his honor that it should be paid on the 25th Dec^r That being the case I concluded that delay on my part to act would be wrong, & knowing that great sacrifices would have to be made to effect the object, I determined at once to sell at any price which could be had: I have made a contract for 4000\$ in Tennessee paper, to select 2000 acres of any of your land after they have examined it—I can make a similar contract for 4000\$ more & then paying the discount for good paper I shall have 6000\$ to pay the debt—This you will consider a great, very great sacrifice—'tis so, but 'tis all that could be done & if your land here would pay what you owe, there would be enough in N. C. and God forbid that you or any of your children should own, or have any thing to do in Tennessee—I wish I could this trip sell all you have here at any price—From the above, you will see that I shall be able to meet the payment (2) before the 1st of January—I cannot leave here 'till the 25th of November & shall then hasten home as fast as possible—There are many persons moving into the Western District, but they purchase of the many sellers at long credits, or exchange their farms in other parts of the Country for them, but I know of only two tracts which have been sold for money & those at low prices and small prices—As I shall not write John at this time, you will be pleased to write him that I shall be able (I think) to comply with his promise in Raleigh My Love to the family—

Yours affectionately

Thos. H. Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

Mr Wheaton

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE 28th Nov. 1821

My Dear Sir,

I have declined writing you for some time past, believing that I should be able to state when I should leave this place, as also the amt. of money I should bring with me. the first I am now able to do, as I have determined to leave this on the 2nd of December—The amt. is more uncertain—I have between 6 & 7000\$ in N.C. & U. States notes, principally the former & am in hopes of raising 3000\$ in Silver on my way—I have made a contract & a letter of this day informs me there is a *possibility* of raising that sum to carry the contract into effect; if I succeed I hope 'twill be enough to satisfy your immediate demands, if I fail I can only say all that could be done has been—I must however inform you that I have made my great sacrifices in your land to effect, and thus almost as great in this cursed paper to get that which would answer any purpose—I at least shall feel happy if all the Land in this State could relieve you, for at your age repose is all important & your children must provide for (2) themselves—Such has always been my impression & I have acted up to it—From the present appearance of the road, I think I shall be at Raleigh by the 25th Dec^r but to do so, shall be obliged to leave my carriage and travel on horseback, for the snow was yesterday four or five inches deep in this place and no doubt the road will be very bad—This will induce us to take the nearest road home & by constant traveling may fulfil my expectations—I may however be disappointed & therefore do not look for me 'till you see me—My Love to all the family who are with you—

Yours affectionately
Thos. H Blount

John G. Blount Esq.
Washington N. C.

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington
No. carolina

Thomas Hamilton to John Gray Blount

CLINTON JONES CO. GEORGIA
6th Decemb. 1821

Sir

Being the Executor of the last will of James Blount³⁵ late of this County dec^d and formerly of N. Carolina and having learned from Mrs. Blount and others that confidence in you wold not be misplaced, I take the liberty to request you to inform me immediately by letter what has been done by Mr. Horace Ely³⁶ in relation to the Maul's Point land in Beaufort County, particularly what the records of the Court Shew in regard to it Since the death of John M. Roulhac brother of Mrs. Ely and Mrs. Blount.

Inform me as far as you conveniently can what Mr. Ely and T. B. Houghton Esqr have done or are doing with the notes, Bonds, &c left by John M. Roulhac to the children of James Blount

I must authorize and beg you (2) to turn your attention to this land So far as to prevent Mrs. Blount's part from being Sold for taxes or otherwise Sacrificed till She regularly constitutes an Attorney in your County, and for all trouble and expense incurred in So doing She will amply Satisfy you. Some time past James Blount and Mr. Ely effected a division of this land in behalf of their wives. I would thank you cautiously to ascertain and make known to me whether this division was ever properly legalized or not.

Very Respectfully Yrs.
Thomas Hamilton M.D.

John G. Blount Esq.

P.S. Be So good as to mention to me the name of an attorney of integrity and Skill who would be willing to transact the business of Blount's Estate or legatees of J.M. Roulhac T. H.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
Washington
Beaufort Co.
N. Carolina

Mail

³⁵James Blount was John Gray Blount's uncle. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xiv.

³⁶Horace Ely is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of eight. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Washington County, 15.

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount

MURFREESB^o 11th Dec^r 1821

My Dear Father,

You will no doubt be surprised at receiving a letter from me at this place, when you expected I was on my way home before this, but much more so when I inform you that from this I return to Nashville and send another to N. C. in my place—To enable me to accomplish even a part of your business, to wit, raising money and what was almost as hard, to exchange it for the kind which would suit your purposes, has detained me till this time and yet have not done all that I desired or had—promises to be performed—On arriving here, I found the roads so bad, and a continuance of Snow or rain, that a due regard for my health, induced me to abandon my journey to N. Carolina this winter, to return to Nashville, and from thence as soon as the river will permit, take passage in a steam boat for Orleans, and from thence opportunities offer weekly in packets for Charleston, Baltimore or some of the Atlantic ports—The roads were so bad I could not return in my carriage & therefore being *compelled* to leave it, I chose rather to sell that & my horses—(2) The journey even thus far has convinced me that I could not travel home in a month, and I do not consider my health such as to justify the attempt, for from my liver complaint I have severe pains in my breast & side & my spleen has increased very much—still I enjoy apparently better health than when I saw you; that is I am stronger, eat hearty, but do not sleep well, not being able to lie but on one side—if however I can have a good passage from Orleans, I have great hopes that a sea voyage even in winter will be beneficial—These are my reasons for the course I am about to pursue—I know your anxiety to see me & the necessity for my presence at home, but to be there & confined is worse than roaming about, for there I have some hopes of a recovery—if then none, & I much fear I never shall be able to remain long in any one place if I expect to enjoy tolerable health—I have made a contract with Mr. Sublett, that he will carry my servant, horses, &c. &c. home and am to pay him 2\$ per day while travelling from this and back & pay expenses, and furnish him with a horse—By him I send a favorite grey, saddle &c. which you will please have sent to San Souci & direct I wish to have him well taken care of as I keep him for the saddle (3) and probably the only horse I shall ever own or want—You had best give Sublett the long bay to return on as I shall order the sale of him on his return, the other bay you will keep or dispose of as you please—he is only 4 years old—

I inclose you a number of land papers from which you can form some idea what I have done, & if I should ever return can explain more fully—As to the Western lands, I would barely say—they will in one or two years I think rise 100 p. Cent in value, they are moving fast to that Country, & the next summer will decide its healthiness—if 'tis so, a large portion of Tennessee will move there, as the Cotton & Corn made there this Season when cultivated almost exceeds belief—I still entertain the hope that I shall bring 3000\$ in specie with me; I have made a contract to that amt. & hope the man will be able to comply previous to my departure, if so shall take it with me, as I cannot get any paper for it that will arrive to send by mail—I send you by Mr. Sublett \$7965. from which you will pay Caroline J. Blount \$136.⁶⁶/100 in U.S. paper & \$609⁸⁰/100 in N.C. being in all Dolls. 746⁴⁶/100 recd. for fee of Sublett, which I have written her about—I hope & trust the sum so sent you will answer present purposes & if I (4) can get more shall certainly do so—I will write you again before I leave Nashville—

Having been so much longer absent than I expected, my family may be in want of every thing, I rely confidently that all which ought will be done—more I need not say, than that I hope you will manage them in any way you may think proper for my interest & their convenience—I have but one wish on earth, that is to be at San Souci & spend the balance of my days there—now I cannot—& when I can God only knows—I want Chloe & Louisa taken care of, the former you well know acted as she should toward my departed partner & the latter I regard as my child—then let me entreat that what may happen take care of them—should I never return, you will find my will in the Iron Chest, in it there is nothing for Louisa, but my legatee will provide for my omission as 'twas made at a time when I was happy enough to have a dearer object to provide for—if 'tis not such as you like destroy it, I have no care about it now—Should I not return, I want a white marble slab placed over—with this inscription only “Mr^s Eleanor Margaret Blount³⁷ wife of Thos. H. Blount”—I feel bound by many ties to have a similar one over Mr^s Brown—This done I shall have no other wish & shall have performed my promise satisfied (5) my feelings to her who was idolised when living & remembered when gone with feelings not to be described—In thus writing you I feel almost as tho' twas for the last time; my feelings I cannot describe, but if you can picture to yourself a Son taking leave of a parent whom he adores & one whom he has always looked up to—with pride and the most sincere affection, to Brothers and

³⁷For information on Thomas Blount's first wife see 1821, n. 4.

Sisters whom he tenderly loves, then you can fancy my feelings—Farewell—and May that God who watches over in this world, receive & reunite us all in that world where we shall soon meet, never again to be seperated—My Love to all & each of our families—

Your affectionate Son
Thos. H. Blount

P.S. I have given Mr. Sublett Dolls. 152. in part pay, expenses &c. & you can estimate the balance which will be due him & pay the balance or give an order on Blackfan—Tell Jno. Akenford to attend particularly to making the returns & be particular in his transactions of the office, sending all the money he can spare from the office to Fayetteville *immediately*.

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington N.C.

Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount

Tuesday Morning
Dec^r 12th 1821

Dear Sir,

Being now, with a part of my domestic establishment up here, I am induced to try once more, the effect of negotiation, for the point place: for if I could now acquire it, I would decline returning to the River Shore. Therefore I submit the following to your Consideration.

For the point place, with immediate possession, and a good title, I will release & convey to you Woolfords entire claim of and in Col^o Rob Salters estate, including the Money due from the executors, a part of which you have paid in the payments made to & for account of Woolford. To this I will add Eight hundred Dollars. upon this I shall wish a twelve months Credit—if not paid in that time, I will give a Neg^t Note, with undoubted names at either Bank in Newbern, which I shall wish, if it be my own, to pay by the usual Bank installments. But I should hope to Substitute that of some other person in lieu of giving my own; this I should expect to accomplish by a Sale of my River Shore or some other interests of mine. I exact no title, until the Cash or a note of the above description be paid, over as above.

An answer by, or on tomorrow will be desirable, because, if you decide in the Negative, I shall remove on Friday or before down to the Shore—

which is the one, far most to my interest to be at, altho' its location, interferes with my clerical concerns.

Yours &c.

Jos. B. Hinton.

Addressed: Jn^o G. Blount esq
Washington

Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount

KNOXVILLE December the 23^d 1821

D Sir

I have a son called William who from the time he could crawl has never done any one thing, even by accident, as it should be or as any other human creature would do it he is impatient of controul, & cannot & will not where it can be avoided be second—he has perfect confidence that he possesses superior knowledge about every matter and thing in this world, at school he never would learn altho his capacity is not doubted, he is generous & immagins he is hamsome upon the whole I think he bids fair to be a vagabond whils I was at Murfreesborough he took one of my horses & went of about 100 miles to a horse race his mother sent the Overseer after him & with some persuasion he returned, staid a week or ten days started a second time, went to Kentucky fell in with some horse drover and is now some where in your state I presume the last account he was at Salsbury. he is now about sixteen (2) years of age as he knows he has relations in your State, I imagine that necessity may drive him amongst you, now what I wish is that if you hear of him, you would intice him to your house or to somebody elses, who would persuade him into the navy. You can procure him an appointment of midshipman. Eaton³⁸ will do this forthwith. let him put to sea immediately or do any other matter or thing with him that you please, and let me [hear] from you—

³⁸This probably refers to John H. Eaton (1790-1856), who was a United States senator from Tennessee from 1818 to 1829. A staunch supporter of Andrew Jackson, he was appointed secretary of war in 1829 but resigned two years later after Washington society refused to accept his second wife, Peggy O'Neale, thereby disrupting Jackson's cabinet. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 260.

I shall go & see the late purchase this spring or Shall remove there the winter following it is probable that it will be in my power to attend to your concerns in that quarter, a resident agent would be usefull. this business of sending every year has & will cost you more than the land is worth, my family are in good health

P M Miller

if you see him do not [tell] him any thing of this letter

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Thomas H. Blount to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE 26th Dec^r 1821

My Dear Sir,

I hope ere this M^r Sublett and my boy have arrived and deld. your papers &c. sent by him—I now congratulate myself that I did not attempt the journey as I am very certain I should not have been able to proceed farther than Knoxville—The snows have been frequent since my last and the coldest weather recollected for many years—I leave this early in to-morrow for Orleans in the Steam boat, where I shall arrive in 7 or 8 days no accident occurring & I trust by the last of January I shall leave that place in the Steam Ship for Charleston—A letter from a friend in Orleans—few days since informs me the place is now very healthy—

I have not been able to raise more money, but have instructed Blackfan to sell as much as would raise 5000\$ if to be done at a fair price & I think in the course of a month or two it may be done—

Yours affectionately
Thos. H. Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

1822

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

TARB^o Jany 6th 1822

Mr Haywood¹ has arrived & says he thinks the Bank would receive the money & interest instead of Bills—at all events that l p^r c^t would be as much as they could charge—would it not be well to send up the money by him to the Treasurer & request him to do the best—I am the more anxious about a speedy settlement as I have understood that Col^o Polk² has been predicting that the money would not be paid without difficulty—I consider that we are indebted to him for most of the difficulty which has occurred

your Ob^t Soⁿ
JG Blount

[Note] Mr Jackson will please deliver this as soon as he arrives at Washington

JGB

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Tarb^o
N^o Car^o

Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount

SHARON Jany. 9th 1822

Dear Sir,

If you knew how my necessities teazes me, and how willing I am to settle our Woolford affair on terms, at once reasonable and fair, I cannot think you would willingly defer it.

I am aware, that the time is truly unpropitious for *Cash* advances, and of all things of a terrestrial nature I need these most, yet I have studied

¹This was probably John Haywood. See 1805, n. 19.

²For William Polk see 1805, n. 22.

your own Convenience as to *mode*, rather than mine, in the offers I have hitherto made.

You won 200 Acres Piney land, adjoining 300 of mine, this side of Bainers. I have laboured hard to sell mine for three years past—but have not been able to do so. Yours would be an acquisition to mine—& mine so would be to yours. Mine is Well timbered—and has neither been Boxed—nor has it lost the Lightwood. Your sawable pines have been so[ld] to Woodard.³ the residue have been Boxed, and the [li]ghtwood burned by Bainer. I will buy or Sell—You may have mine at \$2 per Acre—pay me in 12 mos. or I will take yours at the same price—in *part* of the Woolford claim. What say you—?

Yours Respectfully
Jos: B. Hinton

Jn^o G. Blount esq

Addressed: Jn^o G. Blount esq
Washington

*John Gray Blount, Jr.'s Bill of Sale from Willie Barrow*⁴

[January 21, 1822]

THIS INDENTURE, made the twenty first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty two between John Gray Blount Jun^r of the county of Edgecombe and state of North Carolina of the one part, and Willie Barrow of the county of Davidson and state of Tennessee of the other part, WITNESSETH: That the said John Gray Blount J^r for and in consideration of the sum of Two thousand Dollars to him in hand paid by the said Willie Barrow the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath given, granted, bargained, sold aliened, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents doth give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, convey and confirm unto the said Willie Barrow his heirs and assigns forever, a certain tract or parcel of Land, situate, lying and being

³ This might refer to Isaiah Woodard, a resident of Beaufort County listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of five. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 42.

⁴ Willie Barrow was involved in the transfer of North Carolina Land Warrant 3480. He lived in Davidson County, Tennessee, and was the father of George Washington Barrow, a lawyer, businessman, and prominent Tennessee political figure. McBride, *Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*, I, 30; Land Warrant 3480, Tennessee State Archives.

in the county of Davidson on the Bluff of Cumberland River above the upper Ferry it being the whole of Lot Number twenty four as designated in the general plan of Lots laid off by the President & Trustees of Davidson Accademy⁵ adjoining the Town of Nashville; also one other tract or part of Lot designated in the same plan by Number twenty eight Beginning at the end of the Street at a Stone Sixty feet South of the fifth corner of the above described Lot Number 24 thence running with the Street South 55 degrees west one hundred and fifty Seven feet to a Stake on said Street, thence South 35 degrees East two hundred & twenty two feet to a Stake in the East boundary line of the Accademy Survey thence with said line North two hundred & Seventy feet to the Beginning To have and to hold the said aforesaid Land, with all and singular the rights, profits, emoluments, hereditaments and appurtenances, of, in and to the same belonging, or in any wise appertaining, to the only proper use and behoof of him the said Willie Barrow his heirs and assigns forever. And the said John Gray Blount Jun^r for himself his heirs, executors and administrators, doth covenant and agree with the said Willie Barrow his heirs or assigns, that the before recited Land and bargained premises, he will warrant and forever defend against the right, title, interest, or claim, of all and every person whatsoever.

In witness whereof, the said John Gray Blount Jun^r hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered,

in presence of

JG Blount j^r

Valentine M. Jubleth

W. L. Blount⁶

⁵Davidson Academy, located approximately six miles from Nashville, Tennessee, was chartered by the North Carolina legislature in 1786. The academy eventually became Cumberland College and was renamed a third time when it became the University of Nashville. The school's first president was the Reverend Thomas Craighead, a Presbyterian minister. Among the trustees were James Robertson and Hugh Williamson (see 1805, n. 35; 1815, n. 3 for the respective identifications of these men). Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*, I, 142; II, 273.

⁶William L. Blount, the son of John Gray Blount's brother Sharpe Blount, is listed in the 1820 census as a single male residing in Beaufort County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 6; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, lxi, 131.

*John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount*TARB^o Jany. 26th 1822

Owing in some measure to the derangement of business by the small pox,⁷ Capt. Bowers has come off with two Bails of Cotton belonging to M^r Haywood without their being weighed—I should be glad you could get some person who would attend to having them weighed for him—I weighed the balance of his Cotton but had to do it with a pair of patter [?] ballances that I know nothing about the correctness of—If convenient I should like to have one or two bails weighed by scales & if they were found to be meterially rong, the whole of them ought to be re weighed—If I had known when the flat got to this place from his plantation I would have done it before they left this—I give you the No^s & W^{ts} of a few bails which can by tryed—(viz) N^o 17-396—N^o 15 390—N^o 10-330—N^o 44-297—We are well & keep close at home—

your Ob^t Son
JG Blount

I shall probably hear from M^r H. by this mail, what the bank says

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Car^o

*Swepton Whitehead to John Gray Blount*V^a PORTSMOUTH March 12th 1822

Sir

a short time ago I took the liberty to ask of M^r Bernard some information relative to Juniper swamps in your vicinity. In answer he mentioned several tracts of Juniper swamp without professing to know any particulars about them, and inclosed me a memorandum from you on the subject, in which you mention one near matamuskeet lake as combining more advantages than any other. I have an inclination to buy Juniper

⁷Tarboro experienced a smallpox outbreak in 1822 because people were inoculated with "live" crusts. Watson, *Edgewcombe County*, 54.

timber if suitable in quality, situation, & price. Will you be so good as to inform me if the timber is very fine, whether it has been worked or not, what quantity there is, what would probably be the price, and who are the proprietors. I should be sorry to impose much trouble on you, but I infer from your note that you will freely impart this information, and I am assured that I may implicitly rely on it when given. If from your representation I should wish to view it, it may be more convenient to go by water and when there, should be too far from Washington to confer with you. It will be useful to add some instructions as to the best method of identifying and seeing it.

Have you an idea that your Juniper timber bears any (2) comparison in size & quality for making shingles to that in our Great Dismal swamp near us?

Your early attention to this subject, will very much oblige

Your Ob^t Serv^t
Swepton Whitehead

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esq.
Washington
North Carolina

John Gray Blount to Swepton Whitehead [copy]

March 23^d 1822

M^r Swepton Whitehead
Portsmouth Va.

D.

Yours of the 12th Instant is rec^d & the Contents noted The Juniper Swamp alluded to in my mem^o to M Bernard lies to the N^o E. of mattamuskeet Lake towards the S^o E. end thereof & about two miles from the Lake It was in the lifetime of Judge Harris owned by & and myself & we had thoughts of working it and sent two men say'd to be judges of that sort of Timber to examine it they reported the distance to be from the Lake at Davidsons Store 1 ½ to two miles in a N^oE^t direction to a Swamp several miles long ranging from S^o E^t to NW^t nearly parrallel to the Lake & from an half to ¾ of a mile wide The Timber plenty, large & good shortly after that examination Judge Harris died & his half was pur-

chased by M^r Eli Smallwood, Judge Donnel⁸ M^r John Stanly of New Bern I have (2) had no communication with any of them since I rec^d your Letter but for myself I am willing to sell if as much as 1000 Acres is taken at a low price And if you And any person comes on to examine the Swamp shortly M^r Smallwood will be at Matt and can say possitive as to price & every person on Mattamuskeet can direct them to Davidsons on the N^o side the Lake it lies due N^o from Doc^t Jones⁹ at the Lake Landing the outlet of the Lake to the Sound and there will be no difficulty in procuring persons to go to the Swamp & the Compess will stear them N^o E^t. Altho the distance is small there are few men that have been to the Swamp as no part of it has ever been worked notwithstanding the distance is small the way open & a road or Canal easily made as none of the people there owned any of the Swamp this part of the information I have from John Selby Esqr.¹⁰ now of this place who formerly lived near Davidsons & has been to the Swamp & assures me it is excellent

I am Yours &.

[No address]

John G. Blount's List of Taxable Property the first April 1822

Lott N ^o 19 on which he lives	
half 13 adjoining	\$6900
N ^o 39 on which John Latham lives	
1000 Acres Land in the fork including his	
plantation & marsh &c.	5500
300 Acres call'd the Juniper	75
40 Acres head of Chocowinity Bay	200
2 Acres Sand beach at Hills point	6
300 Acres piney Woods including Calf Savanna	1000

⁸This probably refers to John R. Donnell (1791-1864), an Irishman residing in Craven County. He graduated from the University of North Carolina with a law degree and in 1815 was elected solicitor of the New Bern circuit. In 1819 Donnell became a judge on the state superior court, a position he held until his resignation in 1836. Donnell married Margaret Spaight, the daughter of Richard Dobbs Spaight. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 120; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 139; Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 361.

⁹For Hugh Jones see 1810, n. 3.

¹⁰Two John Selbys are listed in the 1820 census for Hyde County. Both were heads of households and had large families. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 6 and 18.

4000 Acres in Chocowinity pecoson	1000
6200 Acres head of SoD. Creek mostly pecoson	1570
6880 Acres between SD Creek & Goose Creek all Swamp	1720
2220 Acres below Goose Creek Swamp & marsh	555
71 Acres near Washington Bens place	600
250 Acres adjoining Smaw ¹¹ & Cruthers	750
640 Acres Bradys Pecoson	160
1200 Acres West pecoson of Long Acre	124
1500 Acres East pecoson of Long Acre	395
5000 Acres between Pungo Creek & Broad Creek	1220
350 Acres head of Pungo	87.50
2100 Acres on Juniper Branch	400
31 black Polls	
Lott No 49 for the mortgages of Phil Rielly	

JG Blount

Sweepson Whitehead to John Gray Blount

V^a PORTSMOUTH April 6th 1822

D Sir

Yours of the 23^d ult^o is at hand. I am anxious to know the price set by you on the Juniper Swamp mentioned in your letter. My reason is that I could at once determine whether that price would probably answer, if on examination the timber should prove such as might be expected—If the price should be too high, I should be saved the trouble & expense of traveling there & exploring it, a task I should be unwilling to undertake without some prospect of making a purchase. We are aware that there are no swamps nearer than Georgia which afford a great quantity of timber of as good quality as our Dismal Swamp once contained. Your timber will not [illegible] & make large shingles commanding the best price. This is no doubt the chief reason (to which may be added the difficulty of getting & the navigation) (2) of those swamps selling so low as we have been informed they have done.

¹¹This may have been Thomas Smaw of Beaufort County, who had business connections with the Blounts. See 1877, n. 39.

The fairest mode will be I imagine for you to say what you will take for 1500 acres to be selected in a body by me in Cash—and allow me 2 or 3 months to accede or not—I will then immediately visit it or at any rate as soon as its condition will admit.

Your Ob^t Ser^t
S. Whitehead

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Eli Smallwood to John Gray Blount

Thur May 1st 1822

Dear Sir

M^r Watson has surveyed the land I have wrote to you by mail to that letter I refer you for particulars M^r Watson says you must bring with you to court the copy or cou[r]ses of Green Carrowans¹² entry as he cannot mak a representation to the jury which would be satisfactory with out it the great Quantity of rain which has fallen prevented him from survey out it as you had directed but he says his survey will be sufficient if he can have the Courses of Carroway patent

Yours
E Smallwood

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

¹²Green Carrowon (not Carroway) is listed in the 1820 census as a resident of Hyde County and the head of a household of ten. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 9.

Richard D. Spaight to John Stanly [copy]

NEWBERN Friday August 16th 1822

John Stanly Esqr

Sir

From the situation, in which we have stood and now stand towards each other I feel myself bound in duty to my reputation and character to notice any thing which may come from your affecting either.

It has not been my fortune to acquire much practice in this court as a lawyer. I am enduced from this and other circumstances to believe that that part of your circular in the words following, viz, "and the choice of a man to manage our highest worldly interests, the making our laws, may be limited to individuals whom the people would not entrust the most trifling of their private business," was intended by you as allusive to me. To this I require from you an explicit answer.

You are probably aware that a stripling by the name of Farnifold Green attempted (2) in M^r Dunn's store to insult me. It is my impression that this fellow was sent by you for that purpose. My object is to know, whether or not you had directly or indirectly any agency in that affair. To this I require a decided answer.

This letter will be handed by my friend M^r Thomas W Blackledge¹³ and I shall expect to it a speedy answer.

Your Obedient Servant
Rich^d D Spaight

Copy

M^r Blackledge

delivered to Jn^o Stanly Esq^r

½ past 2 oclock—the 16th

Aug^t 1822

Addressed: John Stanly Esq^r
Present

¹³For Thomas W. Blackledge see 1814, n. 2.

John Stanly to Richard D. Spaight

August 16, 1822

Sir,

Your note of this day meets my immediate attention. The address to which you allude contains no sentiments which I do not entertain—and I should think it a misfortune to my country, if they were not entertained by a great proportion of the people of the State. The clause to which you except, is to be found, nearly in the same words in the presentment of a Grand Jury, made some months since in a County in which you were not a candidate. Although ready at all times to maintain my right to act and to speak as truth and decorum may justify, I hold it unbecoming me as a man of honor to seek a quarrel, by assuming a meaning to my language which the words do not impart and which the occasion did not require. Should it be my fate to engage in a quarrel, it shall be my care to be justified by the conviction that I am right, and under such circumstances, I trust I shall be as ready as any man to do what honor shall require

I should therefore be disingenuous and quarrelsome if I did not reply to your enquiry that I had not (2) a special allusion to you in the words to which you call my attention; and that I do not hold the trust of managing a law suit in Court, the “most trifling of a mans private business”—

M^r Green whom you call a Stripling and a fellow, is a member of a respectable family, and himself respectable. That there was cause of quarrel or difference between you & him, I had no knowledge until after the meeting at M^r Dunns Store. If any man has told you, or shall say that I sent M^r Green to insult you, or that I encouraged him to do so, that man is a liar.

Your obed^t Serv^t
J. Stanly

R^d D. Spaight Esq.

Received by the hands of Peter Custis¹⁴ on Friday evening the 16th of August 1822 about 8 OClock in the evening.

Addressed: R. D. Spaight Esq.

¹⁴Peter Custis is listed in the 1820 census as a resident of Craven County and the head of a household of six. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Craven County, 23.

*John Haywood to John Gray Blount*RALEIGH 16th August 1822

Dear Sir,

Thosse feelings of friendship and affection which I have ever cherisshed towards you, as one of my earliest and mosst valued Friends, would leave me illy at easse were I to remain Silent & fail to inform you, that the Writs against yourself and your Son Thomas, which go to the Sheriff of your County by the Mail which carries this, would *not* have been issued, had the Matter ressted *wholly* with me—It is, no doubt, right and proper that the Monies now Sued for Should be paid; and therefore none concerned in attempting the Collection of them can properly be blamed, or confirmed as acting an unfriendly part; and my object in writing this is merely to express the regret I feel on the occasion; and to Say, that had the Matter of commencing Suits remained with *me alone*, a different Coursse would better have attended with my feelings, and Should have been pursued— I am Sorry that it has not been found convenient to pay uss thosse Monies Sooner—all others, however, who became indebted about the Same time and for the like kind of Purchasses, and whosse Accounts are not [illegible], are likewisse Sued.

I hope the Matter will not prove inconvenient to you or to our friend Thomas, in any considerable degree; and offering to yourself and to him my affectionate Regards & kindesst Greetings, I remain, much and Sincerely, your friend.

John Haywood

John G. Blount Esq^r— Washington

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire,
Washington
N^o Carolina

*Richard D. Spaight to John Stanly [copy]*NEWBERN Saturday August 17th 1822John Stanly Esq^r

Sir

Your note of yesterday has been received. The object of my note was not (nor could you have such a conception of its contents) to discuss the

propriety of the general tenor of your circular or the respectability of M^r F Green. It was plain and explicit, referring to a sentence only of your address and an other transaction. When I shall discuss, or wish to discuss, the matter and principles of your circular, it would not be by a private communication to you. As to the voluntary and irrelevant certificate of M^r F Greens respectability, contained in your note, I shall only say, did I want information on that subject I should not apply to you for evidence of that fact.

Your answers to my inquiries I (2) admit as satisfactory.

Your Obedient Servant
Rich^d D Spaight

Copy
M^r Blackledge
delivered to D^r Peter Custis
for Jn^o Stanly Esq^r
Saturday at 12 OClock
August 17th 1822

Addressed: John Stanly Esq^r
Present.

Michael Hollowell¹⁵ to John Gray Blount

PROSPECT MILLS/ Sep^t 10th 1822

M^r Blount

Sir the time begins to Draw Nigh for wheat to be Sowen—when I was up there you Said somthing about Sowing the two Cuts below[?] the Road from the old Stable ground Down to Juniper Bay Road in wheat & oats—I will State to you the way that I Shod do off it was myne But off it Dirs Not Comply with your opinion I will have it Don your way—that is you want the present cotting [cotton] pach on the Canal and the old Stable ground—planted in Cotting Next Spring—I therefore think it wod be the Best to have the Lake Redg and the Cut from the Stable ground Enext together—and have them Both Soan in wheat and oats—and have the two Soan Cuts to themselves—and them Bothe planted in Corn—as you Mean to have the farm Laid of in three Difrints Cuts—

¹⁵Michael Hollowell was probably the son of Ira Hollowell. Ira, but not Michael, is listed in the 1820 census as a resident of Hyde County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 15. For Ira Hollowell see 1803, n. 1.

that will Bring [manuscript torn] as Near Equal as they can be got—the Cotting pach on the Canal is 64 thousand/Stable ground is 54 thousand which is 118 thousand will be in Cotting Nother year—Lake Redg 65 thousand—the Jining Cuts is 44 thousand which is 109 thousand in wheat and oats—the two Lorey [?] Cuts is 120 thousand at the [illegible] which will be in Corn—my Reason for that way is/ that it will be aJining Each Crop togeather and when the Logs is got up at the Long Cuts them two Cuts will make [illegible] wheat and oats patch and the two Cuts on the Road Can be put in Corn togeather an Cotting and the Cotting patch in Corn—But If my plan Dirs Not/Nor is Not Sutiably to your wish and opining I will Sow wheat & oats the way that you was [illegible] the Cotting and the Ridg will come of time anauf for oats—I have got 140 Bushels of oats/anauf athem to Save the Ballance to Send up—with about 1100 lbs of Cotting (2) that I have got picked out/that come of the Long Cut of the Canal/as it opens Sooner then any of the Rest—the Cotting Fineley Looks well and appears to be Reasonly full of pods—with Little Excepshon with Small Spot on the Lake Redg which appears to be D[y]ing—It looks to me to have the Rust or something—that Imatates the Rust—the Corn is Likely to Look at—and think will turn out as well as I Eaver had—Nothing more to inform you at present—you will pleas to write me By the Next Mail—

Michael Hollowell

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount
Washington

William Hill¹⁶ to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH 21st Sept^r 1822

Dear Sir

Enclosed is the Grant made on the paper forwarded by you some days past in favour of M^r B. Edwards,¹⁷ which would have been sent you sooner but for the indisposition of the Governor.

¹⁶William Hill (1773-1857) of Stokes County, North Carolina, served as North Carolina's secretary of state from 1811 until his death. Hill began his public career as a clerk in the secretary of state's office. In 1804 he was appointed magistrate of Wake County, in 1806 he became register of the county, and in 1807 he was elected the county's court clerk. Hill married Sally Geddy in 1803 and later married Frances Connor Blount, the widow of Joseph Blount of Chowan County. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 181; Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 419; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 432-433.

¹⁷In all likelihood this was Briton Edwards, who is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of seven. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 15.

I also enclose \$1.40 change in a case where application was made by M^r Neal some time past.

Will you have the goodness to inform me what you know with respect to the Kidds' who once lived in your Town having left heirs in the United States. There were two by the name of Joseph Kidd, an elderly man who married the Sister of Colo. John [Geddy?] formerly of Halifax, he died in Washington leaving no child by his wife and by his Will left half his property to his wife and the other half to his Neiphew, and made his nephew Exer. who I am informed spent all the Estate and returned to England from whence he came leaving neither wife nor child in this country. The one who died in Washington (it is presumed) purchased a Military Warrant, which by a late location has become valuable & which I think belongs of right to a poor relation of mine, but it appears that Lewis D. Wilson Esq^r¹⁸ of Tarboro? has set up a claim to it bot-tomed he (2) says on a purchase from a Grand child of Joseph Wilson Kidd who died at Washington Beaufort County. Now I do not believe from what I have already learned of the matter that there ever was but the one Joseph W. Kidd lived in Washington, that his neiphew Joseph Kidd before mentioned came from England quite a young man and lived with his uncle until his death and then returned as aforesaid without having been married. The transfer on the Warrant was made in 1784 to Joseph Wilson Kidd, Witnessed by Joseph Kidd and Benjamin Blount.¹⁹

Please give me all the information you can on the subject, for if my poor relation is entitled to it I want him to have it for he has a large and helpless family to support and nothing to support them on

Very Respectfully
Your most Ob^t Serv^t
W^m Hill

¹⁸ Louis D. Wilson (1789-1847) was a prominent Edgecombe County Democrat. He served almost continuously from 1815 to 1846 in one or the other of the two branches of state government, but he gained the greatest political recognition in the state Senate from 1824 to 1846. He was a delegate to the state Constitutional Convention of 1835, and in 1842 he was elected speaker of the state Senate. During the Mexican War he promoted war measures by resigning his legislative position and raising an Edgecombe County company that was sent to Mexico. Wilson later received a promotion to colonel of the Twelfth Regiment of Infantry in the United States Army but contracted yellow fever shortly after assuming command and died. Wilson County subsequently was named for him. Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 164; Watson, *Edgecombe County*, 30-36; R. D. W. Connor, *North Carolina: Rebuilding An Ancient Commonwealth, 1584-1925* (1929; reprint ed., Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 2 volumes, 1973), 571-572; Joseph K. Turner and John L. Bridgers, Jr., *History of Edgecombe County* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1920), 110-111; Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 267-314, 867.

¹⁹ For Benjamin H. Blount see 1803, n. 62.

John G. Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
Beaufort County
N^o Carolina

*Sarah Ball²⁰ and Samuel Richards's
Receipt to John Gray Blount*

[November 7, 1822]

We Sarah Ball and Samuel Richards, Administrators of Joseph Ball,²¹ (late of Philadelphia deceased) have received the obligation of John Gray Blount of the Town of Washington and State of North Carolina, bearing date the 2^d day of November 1822 for (\$20,275,8/100) twenty thousand two hundred and seventy five Dollars and eight cents, that sum being in full of certain Judgments with interest thereon to the 12th November 1823, obtained by our Intestate against the said John Gray Blount, Thomas and Sharp Blount in the Superior Court of Law for the District of Newbern in the year 1801 (it being understood that the Costs on said Judgments yet due and unpaid, are to be paid and satisfied by the said John Gray Blount) Witness our names hereto signed by our Attorney John Hogg acting under our Letter of Attorney duly executed at Philadelphia on the first day of October 1822—Dated at Raleigh NC this 7th of November AD 1822

Sarah Ball
Samuel Richards
by John Hogg
Attorney in fact

²⁰ Sarah Ball, the widow of Joseph Ball, is listed in the 1820 census as a resident of Craven County and the head of a household of three. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Craven County, 20.

²¹ For Joseph Ball see 1803, n. 7.

Due John Myers,²² Guardian of Willie A Blount²³ Twenty seven 90/100 dollars with Interest from the 12th January 1819, being for balance of negro Tom's hire for the year 1818. 11th January 1823

Will A Blount

\$27 90/100

[On reverse]

\$13,72/2 the amount of an accompt overlooked by W W Rodman

[This statement was attached to the receipt from Sarah Ball and Samuel Richards]

²² John Myers appears in the 1820 census as the head of a household of eight. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 29.

²³ This is not a reference to Willie Blount of Tennessee, John Gray Blount's half-brother. A Wiley Blount appears in the 1820 census as a resident of Beaufort County and the head of a household of three. It might also be a reference to Reading Blount's son Willie Blount. Reading Blount, John Gray Blount's brother, died in 1807. He was implicated in the Ball suit initiated in 1800, which in turn evolved from the Blounts' land speculations with David Allison. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 467-468, 467n; Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 6; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, ix.

1823

Archibald D. Murphey¹ to John Gray Blount

HILLSBOROUGH 9th March 1823

Dear Sir.

I wish to learn from you whether the 5000 Acre tract of land lying on the Hatcher River in the Western District of Tennessee, granted to M^r Jacob Blount,² belongs to You. My Reason for asking this information is this. I have had to pay more than \$20.000 for one of the Heirs of the late John Rice of Tennessee; and he being unable to make me any other Renumeration, conveyed to me all his Claim to the lands of which John Rice did have or to which he had title or Claim in Law or Equity at the time of his death. In prosecuting this Claim, I found it necessary to get Conveyances from all the Heirs of John Rice; And Among the Claims which I find M^r Rice had for locating &c, is one for a third Part of this 5000 Acre tract located by John Rice for M^r Jacob Blount. John Rice left four Brothers, one spoken [?], *Elisha*, made a Contract with your Brother William Blount for his Part of the third of this tract, And Altho, I have no evidence of it, I expect your Brother paid him for it. The Shares of the other Brothers have not been disposed of. Untill they are conveyed to me, So far as I can learn. If they have not, they would help a little towards repairing the injury I have Received from one of the Heirs of M^r Rice. Will you do me the favour to write to me on this Subject, and let me know who own this tract of land, and Whether the Claim for the Locator? Part can be, probably, Settled without Suit.

¹ Archibald D. Murphey (1777?-1832) was born in Caswell County but was later a resident of Orange County. He graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1799 and then taught at that school until 1801. In 1802 he began practicing law and became a powerful lawyer. From 1812 until 1818 Murphey served in the state Senate. There he repeatedly sought to coax North Carolina out of its backward state through internal improvements legislation, a state-supported public education program, and a comprehensive written history of the state that he felt was needed because, "We neither know ourselves nor are we known to others." His projects, progressive and expensive, failed because of a lack of financial and political support. Murphey was elected to the North Carolina Superior Court in 1818 and served until 1820, when he was forced to resign due to financial difficulties. He returned to his law practice and continued to gather historical information relating to North Carolina, although he never wrote a comprehensive history of the state. Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 312-319; Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, IV, 340-348; Hoyt, *Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*, I, xx-xxi, xxiv, xxx.

² The Jacob Blount mentioned here was probably John Gray Blount's father or brother, although it possibly could refer to William Blount's son.

There is another tract in the Western District about which I beg to ask of you Some information. It is a tract of 2500 Acres (2) located by M^r Rice for *David Flowers*. Where did M^r Flowers live, when did he die and what are the Names of his Heirs and particularly of his eldest Son. I do not mean by this enquiry to collect information for a Suit affecting the Interests of M^r Flowers estate: for his Son has, I understand, conveyed to Thomas Dillon³ the Locator's Part. My Object merely is, to learn from M^r Flowers what Part of the 2500 Acres he conveyed, & the boundaries of the Part he conveyed. If I could learn this, I would take Possession of it and defend a Suit which might be brought Against me—If therefore you know M^r Flowers & his place of Residence, I beg you to apprise me of this—

Who now owns the Lands granted to John Estes, in the Hatcher Connexion? I shall go to Tennessee in June, and if I can Serve you there, I shall be glad to do it.

For Some time Past I have been actively engaged in Setling my Affairs, and hope to wind them all up in a Short time, When I Wish again to go into the General Assembly and press forward the Internal Improvements of the State. The most important Work which Should be executed after removing the Flats in the Cape Fear, is the Making of a Canal from the Roanoke to Washington, & deepening the Channel over the Shoal below that Town. I am glad the People of the Roanoke begin to vision this Subject in the light in which I have long viewed it—Many of them Seem now convinced that this is their true policy. Could this Measure be effected, Washington would become a considerable Commercial Town in a few years.

I must beg your Attention to another Subject. I am (3) collecting Materials for a History of North Carolina, which I intend to write, if I can be liberally aided by Gentlemen who can contribute Materials—Your long and extensive Acquaintance and your intimate Knowledge of the Progress of events for the last forty Years, enable you, if you have time, to aid me greatly in this Work. Cant you Send me a valuable Collection of old Letters, Books, Pamphlets &c. If you will engage in this business I will Send you a Memorandum of Points, to which I wish particularly to direct your Attention.

Write to me to the *Haw-River Post Office*, *Orange County*.

With great Regard, I am Dear Sir.

Your Ob^t Ser^t—

A. D. Murphey

³Thomas Dillon was a speculator in Tennessee lands. Land Warrants 362, 1779, 2873, 2874, 2936, 2937, 3013, and others, Tennessee State Archives.

John G. Blount esq^e

[On reverse side in John Gray Blount's handwriting]

Answer'd M Murphey that I held the 5000 Acres of Land granted to Jacob Blount on big Hatchy by a deed from him & that I also held a Bond from John Rice for the 16 Negros between the age of 16 & 20 years and answered his other questions

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
Beaufort County—
North Carolina

John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount

BERTIE COUNTY 21st March 1823

Dear Sir

Yours of the 19th came Yesterday to hand—One note was due on the 9th Aug^t 1818 the other 9th Aug^t 1819—On the one due 1818 there was a Credit of \$100 which was paid by you to M^r Hyman⁴ before Suit was bro^t on the notes. The clerk of our County refused to admit the Credit to be of Record as it was not discover'd by the Jury when it was before them & I have never been able to get him to credit the Judgments with them.

I waited on the Clerk yesterday for the purpose of ascertaining the date of that Credit as also the Time when the Cost & Credit of \$18.80/100 and was informed that no Information could be got on the Subject this week—I have received \$80 from M^r Grist⁵ \$18.80/100 from the Clerk of our Sup^r Court which he said was for Cost paid by both Shffs perhaps at a time, he retained one half & gave me the other Twenty Dollars Last Spring from Mr Knox & Yesterday \$100 from Yourself—One hundred Dollars was Credited on the note when it came into my hands making in whole \$318.80/100 paid now—I will next week get from (2) Clerk the dates wished for by Mr Knox & Send them to you immediately by way of Winston, If you Let me Know when the money will absolutely be paid if my presence will be necessary I must attend

⁴This might refer to Samuel Hyman of Martin County. In 1822 he represented his county in the North Carolina Senate. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 279.

⁵This probably refers to Allen Grist. See 1814, n. 28.

—we are all well except my face & request to be remembered to yourself
& Family

very respectfully
Yrs &c &c J. G. Roulhac

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

M^r Rodman

Robert Love to John Gray Blount

WAYNESVILLE 7th of April 1823

John G. Blount Esq^r

Sir

Your Letter of the 26th of Feb^r I Rec^d a Mail or two back & Should have answered it earlier but I Still had an expectation of Receiving a Letter from M^r Lockhart,⁶ and as I expect to start on to West Tennessee on Thursday first I think it besst to answer your now & then write to you further on my return as respects your Getting a deed from Strother's Ex^o for the Lands Spoken off it will be well Enough But before that can be done your Bond for such a Title must be proven in Buncombe Court & there recorded and registered, and Still that will not answer the purpose when Suits are brought & now pending. The Suit with Allen for the Lands round Barnard Station Must be Lost if we cannot Sustain the present Action as their possession under Title was with two or three weeks of Baring us when the Suit was brought, therefore if we Sustain a nonsuit It will now be useful to bring a Suit when we are Convinced that the Statute will bar us; not hearing from Lockhart Since my return I cannot Say more now about the reprobate of the will than I have Said to you in a Letter which I wrote to you Soon after my return from Nashville which I hope you have Rec^d Ere this—In my Letter to you last I Stated a wish that you would Sanction a Sale I made of a peice of Land to Certain Lewis Ball which he had taken a Grant for below the warmspring and which is within the Bounds of the Lands which I was restricted from Selling—I have inform'd you of the circumstances Shortly after I made the Sale & Rec^d your approbation of the measure but by some means I have lost or Mislaidd your Letter; and I well know that he will not make

⁶For James Lockhart see 1806, n. 6.

the payment unless he is forced—Should the County Court of Davidson Consent and direct their Clerk to amend the record as respects (2) the probate of John Strothers will I flatter myself that it will answer every purpose as well as to be the Will re proven but of this I wish you to take Counsel, Whether they Justices of the peace who were on the Bench at the time will have any recollection of the Error by the Clerk I know not, But one of the attorneys who was in the Court and employed in the Business told me that he well remembered the question being put to Drake who proved the will whether he saw Hawkins the other witness Subscribe the will and he stated that he did See him Sign as a witness in the presence of the Testator—If Hawkins is not returned when I go out to Nashville I will try to have the probate amended, and Lockhart has promised me the Same if it Should be that Hawkins would not get back—In both your last Letters to me you mentioned the Circumstance of Lockhart having agreed for you to have one half of the Outstanding Debts on the Sales of Lands which I made for John Strother, These Debts were all assigned to me in august, 1816 at the time Gen^l Blount⁷ & myself were in Nashville, some part of which I have Since Collected in a Very light way but a Great many of them I know can never be Collected, they were the principal Means on which I had to rely for Compensating my Services in the Sale & Management of them

as soon as I return from West Tennessee I shall write on the prospects of affairs &c

I am Sir your Ob^t Serv^t &c

R^o Love

John Gray Blount Esquire

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
Washington
North Carolina

Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount

Monday Morning April 28th 1823

Dear Sir

This is to ask of you a very Singular Act of friendship. I owe M^{rs} Peacock a Sum about equal to that which will be due from yourself to me. I

⁷This reference is probably to William Augustus Blount.

admitted Judgment, and *now* M^r Rodman⁸ appears to be threatening M^r Owens for not having Coerced its Closure, on only this day.

I did not intend to apply to you, so long as I could possibly avoid it—for this—or on any other account, and if two persons, on whom I had Confidently relied had not totally defeated my expectations, I certainly would not do so now. But so it is—necessity compels me to ask your good offices in some form or other, in this business.

Altho' M^{rs} Peacock is plaintiff of Record, the money is going to M^r Rodman, as I learn—M^r Rodman purchased Ben M Selbys'⁹ Ishmael, Some weeks Since, and afterwards bargined with M^{rs} Peacock for him, and is to take this Money in payment—as I am informed.

If this debt be M^r Rodmans (and I have no doubt it is)—or can be in the above way, if he thinks proper I have thought it might answer both you and M^r Rodman to turn the difference between you and *me*—in Settlement of it. If it is not his, or if it is not to be his—& if it will not be convenient to you to account with him—or M^r Owens—or M^{rs} Peacock for the balance between us—then let me entreat you to interfere—so as prevail on M^r Rodman, to be *quiet* about it, for a *few Weeks*—until I can force the (2) Money where I have it due me from another quarter—by so doing—you will Confer a kindness which will oblige exceedingly yours truly

Jos. B. Hinton
to
J. G. Blount Esq

Addressed: Jn^o G. Blount Esqr.
Washington

⁸For William W. Rodman see 1812, n. 15.

⁹Ben M. Selby appears in the 1820 census for Beaufort County as the head of a household of seven. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 39.

*Craven Dickinson¹⁰ to John Gray Blount*NEWBERN 12th May 1823

John Grey Blount Esqr

Sir

I understand you are one of the Commissioners of Navigation if so will you please to inform me per return of Mail who are the Securities of Morris Rollison (Pilots) for his branch if you are not one of the Commissioners be so obliging as to Call on one of them and ascertain who the Securities are and I shall consider it a favor (Rollison is a Pilots at Cape Hatteras)

Yours Respectfully
Craven Dickinson

Addressed: John Grey Blount Esquire
Washington
N Carolina

*John Hogg to Gavin Hogg¹¹*RALEIGH NC 15th May 1823

Dear Gavin

I am here at your Home, where I have been since Tuesday morning and shall continue till your return as I wish to see you on several accounts

The present is to ask that you would apply to M^r J G Blount and request of him for me that he would make me a payment as early as possible of about \$4000 to account Adm^{rs} of Ball's¹² Judgments against him as I have to make a payment on ac/c of Ball's Estate [manuscript torn] a debt due by them in this State—and should [manuscript torn] how soon I could make it—such a payment as now requested [illegible] to a personal favour tendered to me

¹⁰Craven Dickinson is listed in the 1820 census (spelled *Dickison*) as a resident of Craven County and the head of a household of three. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Craven County, 35.

¹¹Gavin Hogg (also known as Gavin Alves) was John Hogg's nephew. See 1803, nn. 6, 9. Although Gavin Hogg was known to the public as Gavin Alves, it is possible that members of the family continued to call him by his original surname.

¹²This is a reference to Sarah Ball. See 1822, n. 20.

Say to M^r Blount that I am satisfied from the tenor of M^r Richards Letter, that if failure is made in the payment of the amount of the Judgment at Nov^r Term of Circuit Court US that I shall be directed to take the most rigorous measures to collect the debt and that under the existing circumstances I shall not feel at liberty, or pleased, to request farther indulgence in this regard—Nancy Lydon & Richard are as you left them, Christy is at Chapel Hill—

Dear Gavin
Yr H^{le} Uncle
John Hogg

Addressed: Gavin Hogg Esqr
Washington
Beaufort C^{ty}
NC

James Maxwell's Bill of Sale to William Ross

[May, 1823]

State of North Carolina
Beaufort County

Know ye that I James Maxwell of the county & state aforesaid for and in consideration of the Sum of One Hundred & Seventy one dollars to me in hand paid by William Ross of the same place the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge myself therewith fully satisfied & paid Have bargained & Sold unto the said William Ross his hiers [*sic*] & assigns for ever a certain tract or parcel of land lying & being bounded as follows Viz! Begining One hundred & Sixty three pole from Whithursts Creek at Henry S Bonners S^o E^t Corner on Charles Cherry line near a pine mark'd WR runing S^o 65 E^t Eighty Seven pole to a stake near a pine mk^d W at J. Maxwells S^o W^t corner, thense N^o 34 E^t one hundred & five pole to a stake by a pond near a pine mk^d W to J Maxwells N^o W^t corner on William Farris's line, thence N^o 65 W^t down s^d line Eighty Seven pole to a corner between three pines near the road leading from Bainers to Luca's landing being H. S. Bonners N^o E^t corner, thense S^o 34 W^t one hundred & five pole to the begining

To Have and to hold the aforesaid land and premises to him the said William Ross his hiers & assigns forever and I the said James Maxwell

for myself my hiers & assigns do Warrant the before mentioned land & premises unto him the said William Ross his hiers & assigns from all person claiming from or under me In Witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and Seal this ninth day of September One thousand Eight hundred & five

James Maxwell (Seal)

Signed Sealed & delivered in presence of
James Redmond¹³
Ja Taichney

(3) May Term 1823 Beaufort C^o Pleas & Qⁿ Sessions.

Then the execution of the within Deed from said James Maxwell to W^m Ross was prov'd in Court by James, a subscribing Witness thereto, let it be Registered.

Tho Smaw

May Term 1823. Beaufort C^o Pleas & Q^r Sessions

Then the execution of the within Deed from James Maxwell to W^m Ross was proved in Court by the oath of James Redmond, a subscribing Witness thereto, let it be Registered.

Jos B Hinton

Michael Hollowell to John Gray Blount

PROSPECT MILLS, June 4th 1823

M^r Blount,

Sir the Things Sent By M^r Rose I Rec^d agreeably to your List Except the Camphur I understand Rose told the Boy that was Sent after the things that the Bottle of Campher got Broak & Lost all—the Corn Cap^t L. S. Pugh toald you about, his Brother Rased; John Pugh¹⁴ had Not any himself. I have Sent Down to Both of the Pughs for, fore or five Bushels of that Late Corn—My Returns was about one Peck Which was

¹³This might refer to James Redmond II. See 1812, n. 61.

¹⁴The only John Pugh listed under Hyde County in the 1820 census is a Little John Pugh. He was the head of a household of eleven. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 23.

Said to be all that they had, you will therefore Send Me the Ballance that will take [manuscript torn] thirty thousand, or I Shall plan [manuscript torn] Late Corn that as Soon as you possibly [manuscript torn] as I Shall Plant all of the wheat pach Soon as the wheat Comes of which that will be by the the [20³] at the out Side, my oats is So Late I think that will make the Corn in that Cut two Leat, be planted. I therefor have Concluded with in myself Not to plant that at all But keep it for pastu[r]e as it will be the Best If the Can be any Late Corn got I Shod be Glad to have it By the 20 or you will write me By the Next Mail. If you Can git any Corn, Higsons Boat is at this time Loading for Washington, you have oppertunity of Sending of anything you want Even for [illegible] which I Can Send Down thereafter, you will pleas to write me weither you & Carrow Bargan about Swindells Clames or Not. So that I Shall Now weither he is to Settle with me or Carrow—

Yours Michael Hollowell

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount
Washington

Gavin Hogg to John Gray Blount

[June 9, 1823]

D^r Sir:

On my arrival at Raleigh I saw Gen^l Jones¹⁵ on the subject of his Bond to you as trustee of Cowells Heirs—He evaded my application by saying he had not rec^d a Grant: I knew it was a pretence but I was without Proof. He has gone to Tennessee. When He returns He must pay or *be sued*. From what I hear He will I think have to be sued. Read this to M^r Cowell—

Yours respectfully
Gavin Hogg
June 9th 1823

¹⁵ Calvin Jones (1775-1846) was born in Massachusetts, spent most of his adult life in North Carolina, and retired to Tennessee, spending the last fourteen years of his life there. He was a noted physician, legislator, and soldier. During the War of 1812 he was commissioned a major general of the North Carolina militia in the Seventh Division. When he resigned in 1814, he was quartermaster general. He retired from his medical practice in 1832 and moved to Tennessee where he became involved in land speculation. *DAB*, X, 63.

John Gray Blount esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount esq^{re}
Washington
NC

*John Gray Blount and Partners to James H. Causten*¹⁶

[October 1, 1823]

M^r Ja^s H Caustin
Baltimore

Sir

We have this day signed a memorial and petition addressed to the Hon^{ble} the Senate & house of Representatives of the US. representing the abandonment by the US. of our Claims on the french Government for spoliations committed on our property between & during the years 1793 & 1800 & praying compensation therefor¹⁷

Under the course of proceedings that you have suggested we indulge the expectation of relief through the Congress of the US. either by the

¹⁶James H. Causten (1788-1874) was a Baltimore merchant and lobbyist, who represented people seeking indemnity from the United States for financial losses suffered during trade disputes with France. He was married in Baltimore on November 9, 1813, to Eliza Myer. Robert Barnes (comp.), *Marriages and Deaths from Baltimore Newspapers, 1796-1816* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1978), 55.

¹⁷With the onset of the wars of the French Revolution in 1793, many American ships destined for English ports or sailing therefrom were seized by the French. Between 1798 and 1800 the United States and France fought an undeclared naval war that resulted in the seizure or destruction of numerous other American ships and their cargoes. To improve the situation President John Adams in 1799 sent William Vans Murray, Oliver Ellsworth, and William R. Davie to negotiate for a settlement of differences. They worked out the Treaty of Morfontaine (or Convention of 1800) by which there was to be a suspension of all former treaties and damages claimed under them (such as French spoliation of American commerce since 1793), pending subsequent negotiations. The United States Senate approved the treaty only on condition that the Franco-American Treaty of Alliance of 1778 be abrogated, not merely suspended. The French then insisted that the respective claims of both parties be renounced. There was mutual agreement to this, and the treaty took effect on December 21, 1801. Because of the Napoleonic wars after 1803 the matter of spoliations continued to surface, however, until 1831, when France formally agreed to pay 25 million francs in six annual installments. When France failed to pay on time, President Andrew Jackson took drastic measures that ultimately resulted in the payment of the money. These payments covered claims made after 1803, however. Causten's efforts to secure payment by the United States government for claims against France prior to 1800 apparently failed. Bailey, *Diplomatic History*, 98-99, 195-198; Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 129. Also see 1831, n. 54.

passage of a Law for our indemnity or a reference to a Tribunal; And relying on your diligence & management we confide the direction of our cause to you.

For our information & to enable us to instruct you should it anytime be necessary you will please communicate with John G Blount Esq^r informing him from time to time the progress of the persuit

Should a Law for our relief or reference to a tribunal be had (in either of which events your agency will terminate) we promise to allow and pay you out of the proceeds thereof or otherwise at the rate of 2 ½ p C^t on whatever Sum or Sums may be awarded to us together with the Sum of Twenty five Doll^s cash in Cash which we now advance for your use

Washington Oct 1 1823

We are Sir

Yours

JG Blount Sen^r partner
of Will Blount and
Susan Sarcey
Jo B Hinton, Adⁿ of
C Simpkins

[Note on reverse] Copy of a Letter given
M^r Ja^s H Caustin of Baltimore

James H. Causten to John Gray Blount

John G. Blount
Washington N. C.

BALTIMORE, Nov 8, 1823

I have visited all the cities and towns along the seaboard, from Maine to Georgia, and have succeeded in each in getting up a Memorial to Congress, praying indemnity for French Spoliations.

From the favorable opinion on the merits of the claim, and the projected course of proceeding, which has been expressed by many of the first jurists, statesmen and public functionaries in the country; and from the confidence, number and unanimity of the claimants, I am warranted in holding out a very favorable prospect of a succesful result to the pursuit.

If the holders of the Memorials in the respective towns, will devote the proper attention to have them signed by the claimants and forwarded to Washington as heretofore advised, which I trust will be done in the precise manner pointed out by the instructions left with each, we shall have

about seventy distinct applications to Congress, presented by nearly a like number of Representatives.

With a cause so perfectly just, and brought before the proper tribunal in the imposing manner contemplated, a respectfull consideration of its merits may be confidently anticipated—and this, you will please bear in mind, is alone necessary to insure success. The claimants are, therefore, respectfully requested to be true to themselves, by promptly executing and transmitting the Memorials, as the most essential step; and that each of them address a letter to his Representative in Congress, and others of that Body to whom he has access, soliciting his or their aid and support as far as justice may require—And I have annexed hereto a draft of a letter for that purpose, which may not be unacceptable to some of the Signers to the Memorial.

I would also recommend, that you have inserted in one or more newspapers, as often as you may deem proper, the advertisement at foot; the expense of which you will please defray out of the contributions you may receive for me.

With respect, I am
Your most ob't Serv't
James H. Causten

Hon. A. B.
Washington.

Dear Sir,—The United States having applied to the public use my just claim on the French government, for Spoliations, made on my property by the Cruisers of that power; and having, by the Convention of 1800, discharged France from all further liability therefore, I have joined my fellow suffers in an application to the government of the United States for indemnity. My Memorial and Petition to that effect is now before the Senate and House of Representatives, and I respectfully request your aid and support to the claim, so far as a due regard to justice and mutual obligation may dictate; and that you use your interest with the Delegation from this State, and others, to co-operate with you.

I am, Dear Sir, very respectfully,
Your most ob't Serv't,

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esquire,
Washington, North Carolina.

*John Gray Blount and Partners to Nathaniel Macon
and John Branch¹⁸*

WASHINGTON Nov^r 18th 1823

The Honb^{le}

Nathaniel Macon

&

John Branch

Senetors in Congress from No. Carolina

Copy sent our Senetors

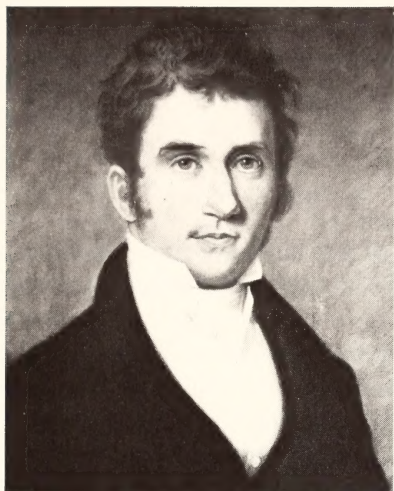
Gentlemen

We are amongst the unfortunate [manuscript torn] the U.S. who suffered by french spoliations between the years 1793 & 1800 And as we understand that most of the Sufferers are about to petition Congress for the payment of their losses We have with confidence petitioned the Senate of the U.S. as by that body were our Claims on the French Government barr'd by the ratification of the Convention of 1800 with France We take the liberty of inclosing our petition to you with a confidence that such attention will be paid to it as our Interest calls for & the honour of the U.S. requires We have taken the liberty of requesting our Agent M^r Ja^s H. Caustin of Baltimore to call on you & confer respecting the time & mode of introducing the petition You will therefore be pleased to hold the same until he calls on you

With much respect we are
Your most Obed^t

[On reverse] Copys of Letters to Ja^s H Causten & our Senators

¹⁸ John Branch (1782-1863) of Halifax County was a prominent North Carolina politician. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Branch served in the state Senate for several terms (1811, 1813-1817, 1822, 1834) and was president of that body from 1815 to 1817. Branch was elected governor of North Carolina in 1817, serving until 1820. Three years later Branch was elected to the United States Senate, serving until 1829 when he resigned his seat to become Jackson's secretary of the navy. Branch resigned his cabinet post in 1831 during the Eaton scandal but was quickly returned to national politics with a seat in the United States House of Representatives (1831-1833). Branch attended the Constitutional Convention of 1835 and finished his public career as governor of the Florida territory from 1843 until 1845. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 628; Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, VII, 52-54; *Who Was Who*, 139.



John Branch (1782-1863) of Halifax County enjoyed a long and varied political career. He served North Carolina as a legislator, governor, United States senator, and congressman. Andrew Jackson appointed him secretary of the navy, but Branch resigned following the Eaton affair. In 1844 he was appointed governor of the Territory of Florida. Photograph of official portrait of Branch as secretary of the navy courtesy of the National Archives.

John Gray Blount to James H. Causten

WASHINGTON November 18th 1823

Mr Ja^s H. Caustin
Baltimore

Copy sent

Sir

Herewith you have copys of the Letters which we have forwarded to Tho^s H. Hall¹⁹ our Representative in Congress & to Nath^l Macon & John Branch Senetors from this State from which you will see that it will be expected you will call on them before they present the Petitions sent them

Believing it best that our Representatives should think we spoke our own sentiments on the Subject we have not exactly copyed the Letter sent me for no doubt your Copy will be adopted in many instances and will be shewn amongst the members as well them who have been written to by their immediate Constituents as others.

Herewith you will receive 25\$ from Jo^s B Hinton & from Mr Sarcey[?] whose situation I stated to you a Letter promising to pay when he can raise it out his Claim (2) which is as soon as can be expected Your Letter of the 8th In^s has inspired a hope which I have no doubt you will use

¹⁹For Thomas H. Hall see 1812, n. 21.

your exertions to justify and if it depended on any one man to decide on, I should say no doubt of success would rest on my mind

With best wishes for your success
I am with much respect
Your most Obed^t
JG Blount

Mr Clanhorden promised to be down & give such a Letter but has not come or signed the Petition for I thought it best he should give the Letter when he signed

*Contract between John Gray Blount and William Vines*²⁰

[November 21, 1823]

Memorandum of an Agreement and Contract, made and entered into, this 21st day of November in the Year (A.D.) 1823 between John Gray Blount and William Vines of the one part, and Joseph B Hinton of the other part (all of the County of Beaufort and State of North Carolina), that is to say, the said John and William hath, this day, delivered to the said Joseph the possession of all that tract of Land, the Improvements thereupon and the appurtenances, just below the Town of Washington, formerly the property of James Maxwell, and Sold by the said Maxwell to William Ross, which said tract lies adjoining the Lands of Edm^d D. McNair & Wife, reference being had to the title papers thereof, will more fully shew the description, boundaries and quantity—to be occupied and Certainly possessed by the said Joseph, until the first of January, one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven (1 Jan'y 1827) and the said John and William, doth, by these presents oblige themselves their Heirs, Executors and Administrators to execute and deliver a title, in fee simple, with a general warranty, for the said tract and the appurtenances to the said Joseph & his Heirs, provided the said Joseph his Heirs, Executors or Administrators, shall, on or before the first of January in the Year One thousand Eight hundred and twenty seven (1 Jan'y 1827) pay, or cause to be paid unto the said John and William, their Heirs, Executors or Administrators, the Sum of two thousand Dollars, current money of the said State, as the full consideration and purchase

²⁰For William Vines see 1816, n. 6.

money, for the fee simple of said premises. And the said Joseph is to have full liberty within the said period, to make whatever additions or improvements upon the said premises he may judge conducive to his Comfort and Convenience. (2) And the said Joseph, doth bind himself, by these presents, and also his Heirs, Executors and Administrators, to pay to the said John and William or their Order, the sum of Sixty Dollars, *Rent*, for the said premises, per annum, payable at the expiration of each year, Counting from the 1st of January next. Nevertheless, the said annual Rent, terminates, whenever the purchase money for the fee simple, aforesaid, shall be paid.

And if it shall so happen that the said Joseph, his Heirs Executors or Administrators shall not have made the payment of the said purchase Money, for the fee Simple, on or before the 1st January, in the Year Eighteen hundred and twenty Seven, all the rights of the said Joseph of and in the premises shall end, cease and determine on the said day, and the possession of the said premises shall immediately revert to the said John & William, their Heirs, Exers. Adm^{rs} or Assigns, together with whatever Improvements the said Joseph shall, in the interim, have put or placed thereupon.

In testimony of all which, the said parties do hereunto subscribe their names & affix their Seals, interchangeably.

Signed Sealed & deliv^d

in presence of

Thos A Demill²¹

J G Blount (Seal)

Wm. Vines (Seal)

Jos. B Hinton (Seal)

Benjamin Robinson to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE Dec^r 15th 1823

J. G. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 7th inst. rec^d by todays mail reminds me of my long and inexcuseable neglect—

²¹ Thomas A. Demill is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of one. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 12.

About the period of my last letter to you on the subject of your Cumberland Lands, I was unexpectedly overwhelmed in pecuniary embarrassments (under which I am still labouring) by the failure of a Brother in law, for whom I had endorsed largely at Bank—Shortly after these embarrassments assailed me I lost my health, for the recovery of which I was at length compelled to change the climate—I returned home but a few weeks since—

After much trouble and some expense in procuring surveys, and information relative to your Lands, I made an effort to sell, in which I entirely failed—The gentleman M^r McKay, who was the sole cause of my ever troubling you in this business—held out to me the most flattering prospects of success in the sale of the lands, he was not only to be a large purchaser himself, but would procure purchasers to a larger am^t—He did not even attend the sale—I postponed the sale for a short time under the expectation of doing better; but before the day arrived was involved in ruinous losses and endless perplexities, and have since paid no further attention to the business.

It was my duty to have written you immediately on the occurrence of my misfortune, but the state of my mind and subsequent protracted illness caused me to neglect even my most important business—

I have now the gratification of having my health restored, but my pecuniary embarrassments absorb all other considerations

I have given you a true state of the case—I (2) regret extremely that I have given you all this trouble and expense to no profit—

I will hand over the papers relative to your Cumberland Lands to any person you may request and readily furnish all the information in my power

I do not believe that advantageous Sales can be made of the Lands at present.

With much respect

I am Dear Sir your ob^t Serv^t

Benj. Robinson

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
Washington
No. Carolina

1824

*John Gray Blount to Calvin Jones*¹

WASHINGTON Jan^y 30th 1824

D Sir

Yours of the 7th Instant came to hand mail and I can only inform you what I know of the business to which you allude That obligation you know was given to Caswell² & others without my knowledge & I remained ignorant of it until Caswell had once or twice seen you about payment when he was advised by some Attorney that my name must be used to collect the money then & not until then the Agreement was handed me and I told them that if they would sign a request that the paper might be handed any person I would then deliver it them they did so & the paper was handed Mr. Hogg³ to collect with no other instructions from me only that I had no interest in it and that he would follow the instructions of the Heirs of Caswell If it will be injurious to you I shall be sorry but the persons to whom the money is coming really need it

I am your most Obed
JG Blount

[No address]

¹For Calvin Jones see 1823, n. 15. This letter comes from the Jones Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee. It is published with the kind permission of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Mrs. Louise Jones McAnulty of Bolivar, Tennessee, and Mr. James E. Wood, Jr., of Terra Ceia, Florida, the latter two being descendants of Calvin Jones.

²Richard Caswell (1729-1789) was a prominent North Carolina political leader during the late colonial and Revolutionary periods. Originally from Maryland, Caswell arrived in North Carolina in the 1740s to work as a surveyor. By 1750 he was appointed deputy surveyor of North Carolina and was elected to the General Assembly from 1754 through 1771, serving as a speaker of the house in 1770-1771. Caswell served as a colonel under Governor William Tryon in 1771 during the government's suppression of the Regulators, but by 1774 he had become a revolutionary leader himself. He was one of North Carolina's representatives in the Continental Congress (1774-1776) and the first North Carolina governor under the new state constitution (1776-1780). He eventually achieved the rank of major general in command of North Carolina's state militia (1780-1783) because of his earlier military success at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. Caswell returned to the state Senate in 1782, acted as the state comptroller general (1782), and was again elected governor (1785-1787). Caswell later played a major role in the North Carolina convention held in 1789 to consider ratification of the United States Constitution. Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 187, 189-190, 196, 200-201, 207, 211-212, 214, 216, 228, 230-232, 241, 261-263, 268; David T. Morgan and William J. Schmidt, *North Carolinians in the Continental Congress* (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 1976), 5, 14; *Who Was Who*, 167; Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, III, 65-79.

³This probably refers to either James or John Hogg. See 1803, n. 6.

James H. Causten to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON Feb 12, 1824

D^r Sir,

Your esteemed favor of 26th Nov last, with the enclosures therein mentioned, duly came to hand—And your favor of 26th Ultim^o reached me only yesterday.

I deferred acknowledging the receipt of the first, with a view to give you at the same time some information on the subject matter to which it relates, but the Memorials did not come in so early as I expected & wished, and a corresponding delay has ensued.

Under the advice of the best heads of the two Houses of Congress the claims have been urged *for the present* only in the Senate; out of the several reasons for this course I will at present state only the following—it is considered that the claims having been settled with a Foreign Gov^t by Treaty stipulations, gives the Senate a Kind of original jurisdiction over them—hence we have suspended all proceedings in the lower House, until a report of the Com. on Foreign Relations of the Senate (who have now forty three Memorials in charge) be had. I have furnished the chairman of said Com. a list of the papers on file in the State Department, which I deem necessary to shew the leading facts in the case, a corresponding call for said papers has been made, they are now copying, & will be furnished probably in a very few days.

I find that all the objections which opposing Senators have urged against the claims arise out of misconception of the subject, and that the contemplated exhibition of the official (2) facts will remove as much prejudice (if not all) as will give us a handsome majority. I entertain no doubt whatever of the United States satisfying the claims; but I am persuaded that much time, patience and diligence will be required in this prosecution. these, with all the firmness I can command, are enlisted in the cause.

With regard to the Spanish claims, in which I have no concern and very little opportunity to Know what is passing, I can inform you, that the term prescribed by the Florida Treaty⁴ for the adjustment of the claims expires in June next, that payment is to be made immediately

⁴This is another reference to the Adams-Onís Treaty, which was not formally ratified until 1821. One of its provisions included payment by the United States government of claims held by American citizens against Spain up to a total amount of five million dollars. Bailey, *Diplomatic History*, 172-175. Also see 1818, n. 9.

thereafter, and that in appropriating all the moneys remaining in the Treasury on the 1st of January last (say, upwards of Eight Millions of dollars) to the purchase of the old stocks bearing I think, six per cent, Congress avowed the purpose to issue five per cent Stock for the Five Millions payable for said claims. The Commissioners have recently evinced a disposition to reject a mass of claims, many of which they had before *admitted* (supposed by some, for the purpose of bringing the valid claims *by force* within the Five Millions, in order to screen M^r Adams⁵ from censure &c)—much alarm was excited & M^r Wirt⁶ was employed to prepare an argument in favour of the Claimants—a few copies of which for the use of counsel have been printed. I have but one but cannot spare it; I will endeavor to procure another from Mr Wirt tomorrow, & if I succeed will get M^r Macon to frank it to you.

I return you many thanks for your kind attention, and will be most happy in serving you when in my (3) power. I beg you will command me freely.

I am D Sir, with Much respect
Y Mo. Ob^t Sv^t
James H. Causten

P.S. The Fayetteville & other Memorials which have been presented and which your last letter refers to, were presented by my direction—by referring to the proceedings of the Senate both before & since the presentation of the “Fayetteville & Washington” (should be *Wilmington*) Memorials, you will find upwards of forty others mentioned.

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esquire,
Washington
North Carolina

⁵This is a reference to Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, who negotiated the treaty with Spain. Apparently there was some disagreement in Congress and among the commissioners as to which claims were valid, and every effort was made by the commissioners to honor all valid claims (as opposed to some that were questionable) in order to protect Secretary Adams from criticism. Bailey, *Diplomatic History*, 172-175.

⁶William Wirt (1772-1834) was a prominent lawyer and author from Virginia. He participated in Aaron Burr's trial in 1807 for the prosecution, thereby gaining national prominence. In 1817 he was appointed attorney general of the United States, a post he held for twelve years. During Jackson's presidency Wirt returned to private life but ran as the presidential candidate of the Anti-Masons in 1832, the first third-party candidate in American political history. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 1237.

Thomas H. Blount's Bill of Sale to John Gray Blount, Jr.

[February 19, 1824]

Know all men by these presents that I Thos. H Blount for and in consideration of the Sum of four hundred dollars to him in hand paid by John G Blount ju^r the rect. whereof is hereby acknowledged & himself fully satisfied contented & paid, hath bagained sold and delivered and by these presents doth bagain sell and deliver unto the said John G Blount ju^r his Exec. Adms. or Assigns a certain negro man named Randal—

To have and to hold the said negro Randal unto him the said John Gray Blount ju^r his Execs. Adm. and assigns And I the said Thos. H. Blount unto the said John G Blount ju^r his Execs. Adms and assigns the said negro Randal will warrant and forever defered against any and all closing. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 19^t Feby. 1824

Thos. H Blount

Signed Sealed & Del^d
in presence of
Silas C. Ho[illegible]

Robert Love to John Gray Blount

WAYNESVILLE 16th of March 1824

John G Blount Esq^r

Sir/ I Rec^d a Letter from Maj^r Blount⁷ on the 19th of January last dated Near Jonesboro—In his Letter to me he States that Mr. Lockhart informed him that he expected James Hawkins at a Court in Nashville which was Shortly to commence & that he would have the Will of John Strother reproven & would immediately forward to me an authenticated Copy, Whether this is not done to amuse is a question in my mind, for he told me the same kind of a Tale December was a year ago (this for your own Ear) Things are Suffering here Very much for the lack of an

⁷ Love is probably referring to John Gray Blount, Jr.

authenticated Copy of the Will or a Deed, I have had Several Set of Cossts to pay latterly for lack of the Necessary papers to Support the Suits, one of which was for the Little Town Seat opposite the upper warmsprings, I am really afraid to proceed on with any Business untill I Receive something to Substantiate your Claim

I Expect to move out into the Indian purchase near Tuckasijah [Tuckasegee] River which will be Throwing me farther from those Lands, And there is a Certain Zachariah Candler who is anxious to be employed in Culling & Selecting out your Lands, he is well qualified for that kind of Business, But Still I do not know how I can recommend him, Oweing to his Charactor, as he Stands implicated as being Concern'd in Counterfeiting Bank Notes Yet I expect he cannot be convicted from the Evidence, he is Still urging to be employed & which would Suit my present Situation, But these are things with yourself, his qualifications (2) Otherwise is Good he lives 8 miles below Asheville on the Warmspring road—I have Rec^d from M^r Gooch fifty Dollars of your money but I had to apply it to payment of some of the Cossts I am as I stated above afraid to do any thing in the Business untill I Could proceed with some kind of Certainty, My Brother Informs that there has been some late decision in the Supreme Court which goes to invalidate All Grants which had Issued on Certificats of Surveys which were Signed only by Deputy Surveyors, if so this is the Case with all your Grants in this Country, do examine this Business and inform the extent that it goes that [I] may know how to Act

I Latterly Rec^d a Circular from a Committee of your Town of whom you were the Chairman, in favour of M^r Calhoun's Election to the Presidency in opposition to the Caucus Ticket, The People here are Very much opposed to the Caucus Candidate Generally; But a Great Majority are in favour of Gen^l Jackson, Yet the[y] are willing to Support M^r Calhoun provided it is discoverable that Jacksons Support in the different States is not as Strong as Calhouns, Yet the[y] flatter themselves that if the peoples Ticket in this State can prevail over the Caucus Ticket & it is discoverable that Jackson's Interest in the Other States are Greater than Calhouns, that the Electors on the peoples Ticket on the Event of their Success will give their Support to Jackson or if Otherwise that it is discoverable that Calhouns Interest is the greatest in the other States that Jackson's friends will go with Calhouns in their Support of

him against the Caucus Candidate so that there may be no division among the Electors of the peoples on the Event of their Success —⁸

I am respectfully your friend & Ob^t Serv &c

R^o Love

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

Edward Livingston⁹ to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON 25 March 1824

My Dear Sir

The lapse of time and succession of events have totally erased from my memory all traces of the case of the grampus in which you say I Sued the underwriters for you. Be so good as to remind me of the time, place and other circumstances that may bring it to my recollection. although I fear you will be too late in making your claim. but when I have the materials I will do what I can to get it received.

⁸The last paragraph of this letter refers to some complicated political maneuvering connected with the presidential election of 1824 in North Carolina. John C. Calhoun's followers in North Carolina organized the "People's Ticket" in 1823, intending to solicit support directly from the people for Calhoun and against William H. Crawford of Georgia, the candidate nominated by the congressional caucus. When the appeal was made for the people to support the most popular candidate, it turned out that numerous North Carolinians preferred Andrew Jackson to Calhoun. The Blounts were staunch Calhoun supporters. At the first public meeting for the People's Ticket on January 8, 1824, William Augustus Blount was named a presidential elector. Strong support was expressed for Calhoun. Thus did William Augustus Blount become the first Calhoun elector chosen and the first elector in North Carolina history to be chosen by a public meeting. When Calhoun was compelled to withdraw from the race, Blount, vowing to vote for the people's choice, ended up supporting Jackson, whom the Tar Heel Blounts did not particularly like. Albert R. Newsome, *The Presidential Election of 1824 in North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1939), 1-173 passim, hereinafter cited as Newsome, *Election of 1824 in North Carolina*.

⁹Edward Livingston (1764-1836) was born in New York, but he made his reputation in Louisiana. He achieved fame as a jurist, diplomat, and statesman, serving as a United States congressman from Louisiana in 1824 and as a United States senator from 1829 to 1831. He became Jackson's secretary of state in 1831. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 744.



Edward Livingston (1764-1836) began his career in New York as a lawyer, congressman, and mayor of New York City, but he moved to Louisiana in 1804, where his political career continued to flourish. Andrew Jackson appointed him secretary of state in 1831 and minister plenipotentiary to France in 1833. Photograph from Hayward and Blanche Cirkner (eds.), *Dictionary of American Portraits* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1967), 386, hereinafter cited as *Dictionary of American Portraits*.

I am much Obligated to you for the information relative to the Dismal Swamp Land, could you without too much trouble let me know what is the amount of all the taxes now due. and whether there are any others likely to accrue? I am very happy in this occasion of assuring you of my constant Respect and Esteem

Edw Livingston

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Washington N^o Carolina

Thomas Turner¹⁰ to John Gray Blount

WILLIAMSTON April 3 1824

John Gray Blount Esq

Dear Sir,

I am so far on my return from Raleigh, and am glad to be able to add to the information I gave you when I had the pleasure to see you the

¹⁰Thomas Turner is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of six in Washington County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Washington County, 16. Turner was an officer on the board of directors of the Plymouth Turnpike Company. See *1824*, n. 11.

other day in Washington, That we have at length obtained the subscription of \$2500 by the State to the Capital Stock of the Plymouth Turnpike Company.¹¹

It is now obvious to you, that the next thing we have to do, is to elect 5 Directors to execute, by such means as they shall think the most expedient, such instructions, as the Board of Internal Improvement, shall give in relation to the construction of the Road. And it is already Known to you that the 24 of this month has been appointed for the meeting of the Stock Holders at Thomas Wendleys¹² in Beaufort County, for the election of Directors; and that absent Stock Holders (2) by a resolution of the Commissioners of the Company, are allowed to vote by Proxy; the proxy in such cases producing his authority in writing for giving such votes.

It remains for me to say, that the Treasurer has given me authority to vote in the said election for the State, and to inform you that I shall not only be glad to have you accept of the burthen of being one of the Directors; but also to receive from you such advice in selecting others as you shall think proper to give. It is much to be desired that the meeting should be attended by all the Stock Holders. This is particularly my wish, that I may have the less difficulty in rightly exercising the authority given me by the Treasurer; and I cannot but hope that you will at all events make it convenient to be there.

The Board for Internal Improvements, at the meeting held last week, declined giving any orders for laying out the (3) road. They were influenced in this respect by several considerations—1. They are to meet again on the 13 May; 2 Mr Fulton¹³ has as much or more than he can do in that time, at a more important interest on Cape Fear; 3^d The swamp is now too full of water to allow the road to be run out—and 4, Orders on the 13th May when the Board will again [take] up the subject, will be given as [manuscript torn] they can be executed.

¹¹The Plymouth Turnpike Company was authorized by an act of the North Carolina legislature in 1818. In 1822 the act was amended when Thomas Turner was added to the company's board of directors. The company was given authority to "cut a canal in conjunction with and in aid of said turnpike road," with the state subscribing \$5,000 for 200 shares in the company. The board of directors was granted ten years to complete the road from Pungo Creek in Hyde County to Plymouth in Washington County, but the project was never finished. *The Laws of North Carolina Enacted in the Year 1822* (Raleigh: Printed for the State by Bell & Lawrence, 1823), 33; Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 316; *Report of the President and Directors of the Board of Internal Improvements, Legislative Documents for 1838* (Raleigh: Thomas Loring, Printer to the Legislature, 1838), appendix, 5.

¹²The 1820 census for Beaufort County lists two Thomas Windlys, one the head of a household of eight, and the other the head of a household of six. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 44.

¹³For Hamilton Fulton see 1821, n. 31.

In conclusion, I will again urge you to become a Director—Impossible things, you know, frequently become possible, merely a change of masters; and a proper or improper selection of Directors, it is obvious, may make or defeat the making of the Road.

I am Dear Sir
Your ob Hl ser.
Th: Turner

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq
Washington NC

John Haywood to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH 8th April 1824

John G. Blount, Esquire,

D^r Sir,

Immediately on the Receipt of your Check, I attended at the State Bank here with it; and offered it in Payment to the Cashier, handing at the Same time your Note for Renewal—Some hesitation took place on the ground of the insufficiency of the Check, as to *Amount*—The Bussiness honour was Subsequently acted on, and the Note and Check was received, on my promising that the Deficiency in amount Should be made good at the next Renewal—Whereupon the Cashier handed to me the enclosed Note or Mem^o, which I promised to forward for your information—He explained or Showed to me, at the time the probable ground of your Short Calculation, but I do not at this moment recollect what it was—I enclose the Mem^o however, and have no doubt, but you will readily discover the reason of the difference between the Calculation made by yourself and that made by the Bank.

I urged that the bussiness Should be passed on, and promised to inform you of the *deficiency*, adding that all would be made Straight & right at next Renewal.

your friend,
John Haywood

The lasst Note, although proposed or ordered to be protected, was held up and not handed out, at my Request: and therefore no Costs or Fees accrued. JH

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON 18 Apl. 1824

D^r Sir

Your letter of the 4th has brought the Last to my recollection. on my leaving New York all my professional papers and I suppose this among them were left with a Gentleman who now resides at Albany I have written to have diligent Search made for the policy and if found will forward it to you without any delay—

Can anything Whatever & What be obtained for my Swamp lands at this time?

I am with great Respect
Your Mo Obd^t Ser
Edw Livingston

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Washington
North Carolina

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

[manuscript torn]

TARBORO July 20th 1824

Mr McNair¹⁴ says you have neglected your note in Bank—that he owes you—And if it is agreeable to you, you can forward a new note & he will pay the instalment & place the balance due you, to your credit in bank—He makes the offer thinking you might have some reluctance to ask for the money—

¹⁴A Ralph E. McNair represented Edgecombe County in the 1842-1843 North Carolina House of Commons. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 312.

The Washington Republican has *gone out* as was to have been expected, when Mr. Calhoun no longer considered his chances worth a printers wages—They, (those opposed to Crawford¹⁶) tried to make Jackson ride Calhoun—that it seems would not do—They now seem disposed to mount Adams on Jackson—This I fear will do better—Jackson I think will soon give over & then the contest will be, where it always ought to have been—Crawford & Adams—Republican & Federal, I could never see any claim that any other of the candidates had to being made presd^t.

Yours &c.
JG Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Car^o

Hugh Jones to John Gray Blount

LAKE LANDING
August 9th 1824

D^r Sir

Your Note by M^r Higson was duly received, & I hasten to reply to it. It was agreed among us here, to allow 50 Cents for every four hundred Cubic or solid feet, that each subscriber cut, it is what we give to the hands we hire & appears to be fair & equitable, as it operates equally on all. It was also understood, that whenever a suitable time should occur, that we would all send our hands, or supply the funds for procuring them, so as to give efficiency to the work. It was left optional with each subscriber to work out his subscriptions, or to pay it in money. We com-

¹⁶William Harris Crawford (1772-1834) was born in Virginia. He moved to Georgia where he became a plantation owner, lawyer, and state legislator (1803-1807). In 1807 Crawford was elected to the United States Senate, serving until 1813 when he was appointed minister to France. Extremely successful in national politics, Crawford briefly held the office of secretary of war (1815) before assuming control of the federal Treasury Department (1816-1825). Crawford was the leading presidential candidate of the Republican party caucus for the 1824 election until he suffered a paralytic stroke in 1823. His major campaign rivals before his illness were Calhoun, Jackson, and Adams, all opposed to the caucus method of choosing the president. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 200; *Who Was Who*, 196. Also see 1824, n. 8.

menced upon it last Monday & have made some progress in it, & built a house at the end of the West ditch for the hands to live in, it being too great a distance for them to travel (2) morning & evening. My hands, cut 720 solid feet a day & if we had all the force on it, that should be there I could complete one half the Width in less than a month; if the difficulties to be encountered, are not greater than I apprehended them to be. I have written Pickett & Gulford, apprising them that we have commenced & I hope they will be prompt in their attention to the call. I hope you will let *your* zeal be commensurate with the importance of the object, & the propitious moment for accomplishing it

Yours respectfully
H Jones

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr
Washington
N C

John Hogg to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE NC. 18th August 1824

John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

Your favour of 9th did not reach me till 16th Am^t covering your two checks on Cashier Bank of United States Philadelphia, one for \$500 the other for \$4500, together amounting to five thousand dollars; they went on by this mornings mail, and so soon as I am apprised of their being duly honoured I shall send you a rec^t for that amount on account of the Judgment at the instance of Sam^l Richards, Administrator of Joseph Ball Esq^r deceased against you, and further cause satisfaction to that amount to be entered on the Record of the Judgment—

The next thing necessary to ascertain is, how soon you can make payment of the balance due of principal and interest of the first moiety of the said Judgment; if you can assure me that such payment will be made on or before 12th November next, I shall delay causing the Execution to issue for said balance & interest, and until I hear from you in this regard I shall not give any order relative thereto; and you will of course see the necessity *of a reply with least possible delay*—

I would fain hope that you will be enabled to prevent any Execution issuing for any part of the sums due; expensive and hurtful as such a

proceedure would be to you, and every way repugnant to the feelings of

Dear Sir
Y^r friend & Serv^t
John Hogg

Washington
N^o Car^o

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq.
Washington
Beaufort County
N^o Car^o

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE Sep^m 1824

You must have been informed before this by my Brother, that W^m G. Blount¹⁶ refused to accompany me to this place—I am notwithstanding preparing with the assistance of Mr. Blackfan a statement of the business as connected with T. Blount's representatives, and shall be enabled to make out a more correct statement than I had at first anticipated—Williams declining to engage in the business I am satisfied did not proceed from any objection he has to the business being brought to a close, but solely to his aversion to the fatigue necessarily encountered by a removal from Knoxville to Nashville—I parted with him, stating, I was determined to close the business by levying under your judg^t, and I see little other chance of doing it—At all events, sometime must elaps before it can be renewed here & if in the meantime it can be adjusted without proceeding to extremities the execution may be arrested—If this course meets (2) your approbation, you will please forward your judg^t properly authenticated without delay—It is not here & I was persuaded I had never seen it—From the progress I have made in ascertaining the Am^t of land now on hand owned by JG & T Blount & the am^t of your claim on the estate of T. B., there will I think be but a small balance if any coming to the children of W^m B.¹⁷ and certainly not enough to pay M^r¹⁸ Blount's legacy to the church—No further sale of land has been made by Mr McLemore¹⁸ than the one you were advised of & at present there is

¹⁶For William Grainger Blount see 1807, n. 35.

¹⁷For William Blount see 1803, n. 31.

¹⁸This is probably a reference to John C. McLemore. See 1811, n. 7.

no one in the country who wishes to purchase, that has the money to make a payment with that I know of—It is expected however that in the months of Oct^r & Nov^r there will be many from Alabama & elsewhere with money to purchase—Nothing but the hope of being able to relieve you from your embarrassments, could have induced me to leave home under so many disadvantages, & you may rest assured that no exertions shall be wanting on my part to effect the object—I shall remain in Tennessee until Decm^r unless I can sooner accomplish my purpose—I am not without strong hopes of success—Mr McLemore has just been brought home from the Western District after a severe attack of illness—I have not seen him, but shall do so, as soon as he is able to talk about business—N^o Car^o money from 5 to 8 p^r c^t prem. & it is said declining—

My love to the Girls &.

Your Obd Son
JG Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

Ann [Blount?] to Lucy Olivia Blount

EDENTON Sept 29th 1824

I gladly avail myself of the opportunity afforded me by M^r Robberts of replying to my dear cousin's letter; when I received it I fully intended to reply to it as soon as Mary and Louisa, who were then very sick, should recover; but ere that time arrived I was myself on the sick list and my health has not been entirely restored, having been attacked several different times, added to which my sister's family was sick all the summer until she left town about four weeks ago, to try the effect of sea bathing on her daughter Nancy, as the D^r pronounced it to be the only remedy likely to restore her to health; so that you may perceive that ill health alone prevented me from gratifying my inclination to write you; I have only once heard from my Sister since she left home and that was the day after she arrived at Ocracoke; I anxiously watch every vessel that approaches the town and have inquiries made of the captains though they have all been fruitless. I long to hear particularly from you all at Washington, how you are and what you are doing; Has cousin Polly or family suffered

in their health from the burning of their mills or did they remove before the evil overtook them (2) I should be gratified to learn that the incendiary has been discovered if he has do inform me. Did cousin Caroline visit the North this summer? she promised if she should do so to take this in her way. I hope her health has improved—I often think with satisfaction on the good health my Uncle appeared to enjoy and flatter myself that so invaluable a blessing will long be continued to him—Have you heard lately from Uncle Willie? I have heard nothing from him since he left you—you are the only source from whence I expect to receive information of the different members of my family with you, & I hope you will not refuse to indulge my very natural wish to hear more frequently and more particularly than I have hitherto done from you—Was Miss H. LeRoy¹⁹ as much pleased with her visit to N. Bern as she anticipated? or did the anticipation of the pleasure prove greater than the realization of it? pray when you see Colonel & M^{rs} Vines²⁰ make my respects to them. I often think of my pleasant little visit to their house. I perceive by the papers that one of M^{rs} Camberling's sons is married; do you recollect the evening we spend there? *our good friend* M^r Branard is doing exceedingly well in Williamsborough and is much liked—by the by can you not send me M^{rs} Hoyt's receipt for making muffins?

If it is not too late congratulate cousin William on his reelection²¹ and tell him I shall regularly peruse the papers in the hope of meeting with some of his original ideas enlarged—so poor (3) M^r Hall²² has to return to dignified retirement this winter—pray was your house divided against itself or did you all vote for M^r Hynes?²³ I mean those who were entitled to a vote. I know my cousin Olivia would not desert an old friend—

I have sent two songs by M^r Robberts of which I beg your acceptance—one is a favorite of mine the other I selected because it is fashionable—what a scrawl I send you, pray commit it to the flames if you have any love for me—we shall not lose sight of the promised visit this winter from you and cousin Patsey, tell her be careful how she laughs at people in future—kiss the dear children for me. I often wish I could hear Olivia

¹⁹ Perhaps this was the daughter of Lewis LeRoy. See 1812, n. 26.

²⁰ For William Vines see 1816, n. 6.

²¹ William Augustus Blount was elected to the North Carolina House of Commons in 1824 from Beaufort County. He was reelected the three succeeding terms serving until 1828. He was also involved in the presidential election as an elector. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 283, 285, 287, 289. Also see 1824, n. 8.

²² This is probably a reference to Thomas H. Hall. See 1812, n. 21.

²³ Richard Hines, born in Tarboro, began a law practice in Raleigh in 1816. He served in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1824 and was elected to the United States House of Representatives for one term (1825-1827). He resumed his law practice in Raleigh thereafter and died in 1851. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1123; *Who Was Who*, 322.

say *Grand Pa*—she said it so sweetly, it was more pleasant to my ear than the softest musick—It is now past twelve and I must bid you good night—please make my kind remembrances to my Uncle and all my relations and accept the same from

Your affectionate Cousin
Ann

Addressed: Miss Lucy Olivia Blount
Washington
Mr. Roberts N. Carolina

*A Circular by William Augustus Blount*²⁴

OAKLANDS Oct^r 26^t 1824

D^r Sir

The Period is not distant, when the Voters of this State, will be called upon by a duty, which they owe to themselves to exercise one of the greatest privileges of Freemen; The Privilege of electing Electors to vote for President & Vice President of the U.S. By the People among whom I live, I have been placed upon the Peoples Ticket, an Honor to which I am not insensible, and it becomes necessary that I should declare, what is the course I shall pursue, if elected—

It is almost Superfluous to Say, yet I cannot deny myself the Pleasure, that I am opposed to M^r Crawford & to caucusing—I am in favour of Adams or Jackson. It seems to me that an expression of a preference for either is unnecessary, & would be improper; Yet it is necessary, on my own account that I should make known: That if I am elected at all, as it must be by a majority of Votes of the whole State or the votes given, that I shall honestly and faithfully speak, if I know either, the wishes of that Majority. That there may be no possibility of Error, it has been suggested, & I now request it, that each & every Voter will write on the Back of his Ticket the name of the Individual he prefers—Jackson or Adams. This is easily done & I trust will be done for I only wish to Know the Peoples will, by me it shall be spoken—

²⁴For William Augustus Blount's part in the presidential election of 1824 see 1824, n. 8. In the final analysis he seems to have voted for Jackson, even though his county (Beaufort) was inclined toward John Quincy Adams. Newsome, *Election of 1824 in North Carolina*, 153-159.

(2) If however this should be neglected I shall give my Vote for the Individual, who from all the facts before me, shall seem to be the choice of the People. If Jackson, I shall Vote for Jackson if Adams, for Adams—This election involves a principle of mighty import to the People of this County: Shall we judge for ourselves whom we will make President & Vice President, or shall we permit our representatives in Congress to do this for Us? I think, & I hope the True & Independent men of this State will, in this contest, forever Settle this question! The Constitution has given us this right, we will exercise it.

I shall Vote, if elected, for J. C. Calhoun to be Vice President, & proud shall I be to have it in my power to vote for him, a man whose Talents, Patriotism & Services are Known & appreciated. I hope it will not escape the recollection of the voters, that if M^r Crawford is elected President M^r Gallatin²⁵ must also be elected Vice President; that M^r Gallatin is by birth a Foreigner, & that in the event of M^r Crawfords removal or death, M^r Gallatin, a Foreigner, becomes the President of the U.S. Can I ask Sir that you will make publick in your county the foregoing—I am aware that I am imposing trouble, a desire to serve the People is my only justification

With great respect
W. A. B

John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

JACKSON Oct^r 29th 1824

I have been in this part of the country for ten or twelve days with the hope of meeting with some person who wished to purchase lands—There are many viewing the country & some want lands; but I have seen no one who had money to purchase with—I have made no sales, & fear the prospect of doing so, is a bad one—The judgment against M Bell taken in part payment by McLemore for lands sold by him, is not paid, & in obtaining it, there was some error which it is said will produc a delay of twelve months in its collection—Perhaps I may be able to collect the

²⁵ Albert Gallatin, who is identified in 1807, n. 9, was nominated in 1823 as a candidate for vice-president of the United States on the Crawford ticket. When his foreign birth became a source of controversy, Gallatin withdrew from the race in an unsuccessful attempt to help Crawford. Newsome, *Election of 1824 in North Carolina*, 106-107.

balance due by Montgomery²⁶ & Hopkins²⁷—I have directed that execution issue against Lockhart—He says he will try to raise the money; but I have but little hopes from that quarter, except at the end of the law—If there should be no prospect of serving you by a longer continuance in the country, I shall set out for N^o Car^o about the 1st of Decm^r—I think I have so arranged your land business that no further difficulties may be expected, and if I can come to a settlement with W. G. Blount, I shall not regret having made the journey, tho' I should fail in the principal object of it—My health is not good, some affection of the heart which has distressed me much & continues to do so—My love to the Girls—I have rec^d no letter from Washington since I left there, nor heard one word from the family, except through Lolly.

your Obd Son
JG Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Carolina

*Timothy Pickering*²⁸ to *James H. Causten* [printed copy]

SALEM, November 19, 1824

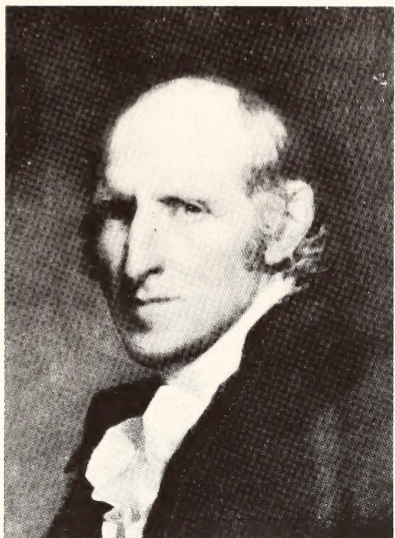
SIR,

I duly received your letter of the 23d ult. which not requiring an immediate answer, I postponed it to other engagements. I regret that the information it contains had not been communicated in your former let-

²⁶ This possibly refers to Colonel John Montgomery, a soldier and Indian fighter who lived in Clarksville, Tennessee. Montgomery County, Tennessee, is named for him. Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*, I, 205-207; III, 311.

²⁷ This could refer to Thomas Hopkins, a modest speculator in Tennessee lands. Land Warrants 42, 262, 333, and 827, Tennessee State Archives.

²⁸ Timothy Pickering (1745-1829) was a prominent Massachusetts lawyer, judge, and politician. He served during the Revolutionary War as Washington's adjutant general, on the Board of War, and eventually as quartermaster general of the Continental Army. In 1795 he became the secretary of war, but he transferred that same year to the State Department, which he controlled until 1800. He was elected to both the United States Senate (1803-1811) and House (1813-1817). While serving in the House, Pickering bitterly opposed Madison's war policies during the War of 1812 and became a leading advocate of the disunion movement in New England. *Who Was Who*, 481; George Dangerfield, *The Era of Good Feelings* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1952), 87.



Timothy Pickering (1745-1829) had a close, working knowledge of the undeclared naval war with France and of spoliation claims. He served briefly as Washington's secretary of war in 1795 before becoming secretary of state, a position he continued to hold under John Adams until 1800. Photograph from *Dictionary of American Portraits*, 488.

ter. Having no personal concerns with commerce, and rarely seeing any of the debates in Congress, I was ignorant of the recent applications of merchants to that body for indemnities on account of the relinquishing of their claims on France, for her spoliations on our commerce, by the treaty negotiated by Elsworth, Davie and Murray.²⁹ With that treaty you are of course familiar; as it is the basis of the claims of the merchants you represent.

When in 1797, Pinckney, Marshall and Gerry, were appointed ministers plenipotentiary, to negotiate with the French Government, then administered by the Directory, on all the differences between the United States and France—those ministers were instructed to agree on an equitable mode of examining and deciding on the claims of our citizens, in respect to the depredations on our commerce. But although they were to press those claims with the greatest earnestness, they were not to insist on them as an indispensable condition of the proposed treaty. They were enjoined, however, “not to renounce them.” But a regard to *justice* was of all things the most remote from the views of the Directory. You must be

²⁹Oliver Ellsworth, William R. Davie, and William Vans Murray were John Adams's emissaries in France ordered to seek the restoration of friendly relations with France. Their efforts led to the Convention of 1800. See 1823, n. 17.

acquainted with the result of that mission: the Directory would not even receive our ministers.³⁰

By the 2d article of the treaty negotiated by Elsworth, Davie and Murray,* it appears that our government felt itself bound, in duty to its injured citizens, to demand of the French Government, compensation for the same depredations: but as a set off, the latter demanded a renewal of the treaty of alliance, &c. of 1778, and of the Consular Convention of 1788, all of which, Congress, in 1798, had justly declared void, in consequence of their notorious violations by the French Government. The Senate of the United States, unwilling to renew those treaties, advised the ratification of the new treaty—expunging the second article—thus leaving the reciprocal claims of the two governments undecided, and subjects of future negotiation; and adding a limitation of the treaty to eight years. President Adams ratified it accordingly. The French Government gave its assent, with the proviso, that by the retrenchment of the 2d article, the two states renounced the respective pretensions which were the object of that article: and in this form, Bonaparte, then first consul, ratified it. The treaty, in this situation, being laid before the Senate, by President Jefferson, was returned as fully ratified without any further act of the Senate.** This implied a reciprocal abandonment of the old treaties, and of the claims for depredations, up to that time, September 30, 1800.

Thus the government *bartered* the just claims of our merchants on France, to obtain a relinquishment of the French claim for a restoration of the old treaties, especially the burthensome treaty of alliance, by which we were bound to guarantee the French territories in America.

*I was not then in office—having been removed in the May preceding.

**[Causten's note] M^r Pickering is mistaken in this particular; the Senate solemnly "Resolved, that they considered the Convention fully ratified." 6 vol Laws US J.H.C.

³⁰The undeclared war that went on between the United States and France from 1798 to 1800 was provoked by the refusal of France to negotiate with the three American ministers, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, John Marshall, and Elbridge Gerry, whom President John Adams had sent to Paris to treat for the restoration of friendly relations. When three French agents, later called XYZ, informed the Americans that they must pay Foreign Minister Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord a huge bribe before negotiations could begin, the American diplomats were incensed, and the negotiations never began. Pinckney and Marshall were ordered to leave France, whereas Gerry was not. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 128-129.

On this view of the case, it would seem that the merchants have an equitable claim for indemnities from the United States. To avoid this claim, especially as the amount is of such magnitude, many reasons, I doubt not, will be urged. For instance—that the French Government was so utterly regardless of justice as to forbid the hope of obtaining any redress, if the claim had been persisted in; and to relinquish it, therefore, was really to relinquish a nullity; while it procured a formal renunciation of the old treaties. That if the United States had persisted in the claim, then, to render it efficacious, reprisals must have been made: but France, destitute of foreign commerce, presented nothing on which a plan of reprisals could operate. That if the claim were kept up, waiting for the auspicious period of peace, in which to renew it—the very magnitude of the demand presented a formidable objection to its admission. That if, when the revolutionary measures should cease, a new and regular government should be established—by the restoration of the Bourbon family for example—this might excuse (2) itself as not obliged to account for the injustice and violence of the usurpers—injustice and violence too much countenanced by a numerous party of our citizens. That the present French Government had evaded the demand for indemnities for still greater spoliations and injuries committed during the reign of Bonaparte. And lastly, that to attempt to obtain indemnities by *force*, that is, *war*, would bring on our country immense evils, without any hope of success, in the object of war.

Such are some of the objections which you may have to encounter, in prosecuting the merchants' claims before Congress. The ingenuity of opponents to the claims will doubtless suggest many more.

The old claim of Beaumarchais³¹ (which has appeared to me alike impudent and unjust) has, I have understood, been urged by the present French Government; and insisted on as a preliminary to the admission of the merchants' claims for the imperial spoliations on their commerce. But large as it is good policy may perhaps require its admission by our government; provided France will stipulate to compensate for those spoliations; Beaumarchais' claim to be a deduction from their amount. The merchants would then have a very large portion of their losses repaired.

³¹ Pierre de Beaumarchais, French playwright, poet, and courtier during the reign of Louis XVI, organized secret and substantial French aid to the American cause during the American Revolution. He did this through a fictitious French company called Roderigue Hortalez et Cie. Total expenditures by the company exceeded 21,000,000 livres. Later confusion over reimbursements resulted in a heavy personal loss for Beaumarchais. Apparently the French later claimed that the United States should pay back Beaumarchais before making claims against the French government for the seizure of American ships. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 91; Andrews, *Concise Dictionary of American History*, 436.

I return the certificate of the merchants who appointed you their agent. If I could communicate any thing to aid your application to Congress, I should freely do it. The objections which I have conjectured as likely to be urged against you, though formidable in *fact*, are in my view deficient in *principle*. If the treaty of September 30, 1800, containing the relinquishment, is obligatory on the United States, and as such to be insisted on by the present French Government, it amounts to an admission, that the government *de facto*, had a right to bind the French nation as effectually as if the treaty had been negotiated with the present *legitimate* government: and such doubtless is the principle of public law. It follows then, that if the relinquishment had not been made, the present French Government would be responsible. Consequently, the relinquishment by our own government having been made in consideration that the French Government relinquished its demand for a renewal of the old treaties, then it seems clear, that as our government applied the merchants' property to buy off those old treaties, the sums so applied should be reimbursed.

If the claim now lay open against the present French Government, and should be admitted to be substantially just, what adjustment would be deemed equitable? I presume that the actual situation of France at the time the spoliations were committed, and ever since, would be pleaded against the demand of *interest*; and whatever could be yielded to that plea, should be allowed to our own government. Doubtless the American merchants would rejoice if they could obtain the *principal* of their claims.

I saw a paragraph in some very late newspaper, that the present French government had made provision for British claims for injuries under the revolutionary government; while, it was remarked, those of the United States had been resisted.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant.

TIMOTHY PICKERING

JAMES H. CAUSTEN, Esq.

NB It must be distinctly understood that the above is *on no account* to find its way into the newspapers, it is intended solely for the use of the claimants of Washington N.C.

Very respectfully
Jas H. Causten

John G Blount Esq^r
Washington NC

D Sir

Supplemental Memorials calculated to take up the signatures of those claimants who, from whatever cause, failed to sign the former, are now making almost every where—this measure is deemed of the last importance, to counteract the idea suggested by some members of Congress, “that payment would be in good season if made when demanded”, that is, when demanded by all—It is therefore intended that all should join in the application. If there should be other claimants in your quarter, be pleased to make a copy of the old Memorial & stipulation for their signatures, and forward the same to me by the 10th of next month. M^r Leroy will show you my letter to him of the 22^d Ins^t I crave your indulgence for the trouble I have taken the liberty to impose on you. In haste, I am sir

Yr ob Ser^t

J. H. Causten

John G. Blount Esr.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington, N.C.

*John Gray Blount's Instructions to William Williams*³²

WASHINGTON December 4th 1824

Captain William Williams

You will proceed to Juniper Bay where my overseer will deliver at the mouth viz Canal as much Corn as will load you and will commence as soon as you are prepared with [manuscript torn] formed by a double row of Boards that is Boards on each side of Stantions or posts both lengthway [manuscript torn] Vessell near the middle of the main Hatch to give Air to the Corn all through the Vessell there will be enough of the early or rainripe Corn to fill the two forward rooms and I expect the Vessell will go best over the swash with them full & about 150 Bl^a in the after rooms; that will be of the common Corn as well as the lighter load & will give it more time to dry well before it goes in a large [illegible] I think new Corn like mine worth 45 Cents p^r bus^l here & therefore mean to sell at the first place it will command that price & pay freight and Commissions you will load as quick as you can with convenience & proceed for Darian enquiring the markets at Wilmington Georgetown,

³²For William Williams see 1803, n. 2.

Charleston & Savannah & if you learn that a price can be had at any one of them places which will pay your freight & Comⁿ & nett me 45 Cents p bus¹ you may sell & if not proceed to Darian & deliver your Load to M^r Anson Kimberly merchant there. He will pay you 42 Cents p bu¹ & freight and I suppose if you can sell short of Savannah at 55 cents p bu¹ you would be satisfied with 10 Cents p bu¹ freight and that will ensure me my 45 Cents p bu¹.

Write me from the place you discharge at what you have done

I wish you safety & dispatch
Your^s &
JG Blount

Rec^d a Copy of the above Instructions

William Williams

[No address]

John Hogg to John Gray Blount

FAYETTEVILLE N.C. 30th Dec^r 1824

John G. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

Your several favours of 16th & 26th Ult^o (rec^d on 23^d Ult^o & 13th instant) are before me to be replied to—

I am advised by the Cashier of the Bank of the U States at Philadelphia, of 23^d instant, that your check for Five thousand dollars in my favour has been duly honoured.

I have of this date sent under cover to M^r Sherwood Haywood³³ a Warrant to Clerk of Circuit Court at Raleigh, to enter satisfaction of record of the first Five thousand dollars, as of 31st August 1824 and of the second like sum as of 23^d Instant, to account the Judgment by you confessed to Adm^r of Jos. Ball Esq^r deceased; which I have no doubt will be so entered—

As yet I have no reply from M^r Richards to mine making him this last remittance, in which I put before him your request for further in-

³³ Sherwood Haywood of Edgecombe County was clerk of the North Carolina Senate from 1786 to 1798. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 217-237 passim. See also 1821, n. 7.

dulgence; so soon as I have his reply you shall be advised thereof—

Wishing you many returns of the season, I remain, as ever, with regard and esteem

Dear Sir

Y^r friend & Serv^t

John Hogg

Washington

N.C.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r

Washington

Beaufort County

No Car^o

1825

Robert Jeter¹ to John Gray Blount and C. S. Shepard

1825 Feb^y 26th GRANVILLE COUNTY N. CAROLINA

Sir; abought last Christmast I Was in the Western Destrict of Tennisee Weakly County and Saw a small part of a large tract of land lying on the Obine Rivver Said to belong to C. S. Shepard by Some pople and by others to the Saim and John Gray Blunt in Company and also was informed that the land was for sale. and as I could not find any Agent for Such Gentelmen out thare and being informed that you livd in Washington Beaufort County N. Carolina I avail my self of this opertiuenity of righting to you in order to know if the lands is for sale and if so I ask the favour of you to giv me the information Whare I can find you or any other Gentleman Who is intrusted in the land that livs nearest to me as I wish to se the Gentlemen it belongs to in order to se if I could traid for one or two thousand acres of it, or pirhaps move as it is likely Some of my Neighbours wish to by also if I Should by and go out thare from yours & c.—

Robert Jeter

N. B. I would be fond to git & answer as soon as Conveniant—if a letter should be sent by the post direct it to the post office at Jones Store Granvill Cty. N. Carolina—

R. Jeter

Addressed: Messrs. John Gray Blunt and C. S. Shepard
Beaufort County
Washington N. Carolina

Fav^d by
M^r Mitchel

¹Robert Jeter is listed in the 1820 census as a resident of Granville County and the head of a household of eight. He represented Granville County in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1822 to 1824. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 280, 282; Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Granville County, 23.

*Willie Blount to John Gray Blount*WASHINGTON CITY March 8th 1825

Dear Sir:

The Bill reported by the Committee in my favor stated, that I had raised and advanced for the promotion of the public service \$370,000, & that I so raised it upon my own responsibility, & that of my endorsers—my memorial, Documents & vouchers agree therewith—the report from the war Dept. agrees therewith; and there was no evidence before Congress to shew the contrary—

Said reported Bill proposes, that a reasonable commission should be allowed me on the said \$370,000 and likewise on the further sum of \$250,000, remitted to me by the Gov^t, after the above \$370,000 had been raised and applied by me to public uses, as I had conducted those remittances for the benefit of the Gov^t & its service—it also spoke well of my exertions in other respects.

The Bill in my favor passed a first & second reading, and on the 4th day, before the close of the session, which was the last day a Bill could be passed in either House, with a prospect of its being acted on in the other, according to the rule of both Houses, it also being a rule to refer all Bills, when twice read, to a committee of the whole House to examine & report thereon to the House for a third reading, mine took that course, & when it was taken up in Committee of the whole, a member, who, I am told had said to a friend of the Bill, that he would not oppose it in Committee, did, contrary to that assurance, rise & propose to lay the Bill, on the table, without using any argument against the Bill, alledging however, that he was opposed to the passage of it, but owing to the great number of Bills to be acted on, & owing to the length of time it would require to discuss the Bill, then taken up, he hoped it would be laid on the table for the present: it was accordingly laid on the table—it was afterwards called up & discussed fully on its merits, after which, it passed in Committee of the whole & was reported to the House for a third reading that evening—in the evening it was called up for a third reading, and the same member, again, opposed it, tho' on no new ground, but talked on until another member, who wanted his Bills acted on, moved to lay my Bill on the table again, which was done—Shortly after that, just as the friends of my Bill, who were numerous, were about to call it up again, with a fair prospect of passing it that night in time to send it to the Senate, which Body it was believed would pass the Bill also, a member of the Senate observed that the Senate had adjourned until next day—thus my Bill with fair prospects of being passed, is laid on the table until next

session, when, I have reason to believe it will be passed; and many members have said, that it is shameful that it was laid on the table for the present—the member who opposed my claim was in service a part of the time when my responsible exertions were made to afford him & his men comforts &c. & his venerable & useful Father was, for a certain part of my advances one of my endorsers at Bank, & we would have had the money (2) of our endorsed Note to pay, had not Judge White's² friendly offices prevented it—the Judge's aid to our relief lead to the Notes being taken up—the Note was for \$15000—& beside [illegible] Bills for which I am liable for about \$350,000, & if protested should have had that sum to pay—I do not complain of any man's opposition to my claim, Knowing that all men have a right to think and to act for themselves in a correct manner—I only state a few of the many favorable points of view in which my claim is entitled to support & how opposed and I really do not know of any one fair ground of objection to the claim—I am respectfully & sincerely

your friend
Willie Blount

J. G. Blount Esq^r & friends
Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington,
Beaufort County
North Carolina

W. Higson to John Gray Blount

MATTAMUSKEET April 12th 1825

Dear Sir

I wrote you a few weeks ago concerning the Hen^y Williamson³ Business Stating the number of Children which I will again repeat that it may not escape your memory—as I wish some further Information respecting it—Nancy Hall Daughter of Hen^y Williamson—dead left two sons of age Fanny Swindall Daughter of H. Williamson dead left one Daughter who is now married to Wilson Daniels—also three Sons under

²For Hugh Lawson White see 1804, n. 7.

³A Henry Williamson is listed in the 1790 census as a resident of Hyde County and the head of a household of five. *The First Census of 1790*, 138.

age. Thomas Williamson Son of Hen^y Williamson dead—left one son Charles Williamson one Daughter Sally both of age—

Polly Swindall daughter of Hen^y Williamson a widow now living—Peter LaCuse Williamson⁴ Son of Hen^y Williamson now living—Sally Williamson⁵ Daughter of Hen^y Williamson dead—& left two Illegitimate Children—Jackⁿ Jarvis Brother to James Jarvis was administrator of Hen^y Williamson (2) I did not know untill lately that any administration had been made on the Estate—your form of a power of attorney furnish^d me relinquishes the administration to us—what I particularly wish to know is whether I need to mention the administration in power of att^y as it has already been done

I also wish to know what must be done with respect to the three sons of Fanny Swindall all under age and I presume no Guardians—their father is living and are all residents of Bay River—no County Court Intervens before our Superior Court—to admit of a Guardⁿ being appointed—especially as we wish to have the power of attorney proven at our next Sup^r Court—I would also wish to know whether the two Illegitimate Children of Sally Williamson Heir for their mother as I am Inform^d that there is a late act of Assembly making such a provision for such Children and if so I presume Guardians would have to be appointed—no County court Intervens before our Sup^r Court to have such guardians appointed—I am anxious to have (3) the Business Arranged so as to empower us to act at our next Sup^r Court—if possible I presume you have wrote to your Correspondant in Baltimoor to ascertain whether your old friend M^r Ja^s Murdock of London is living.

I remain your
most Ob^t Serv^t W. Higson

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

⁴Peter LaCuse Williamson is listed in the 1820 census as simply LaCuse Williamson. He was the head of a household of five in Hyde County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 14.

⁵Sally Williamson is listed in the 1820 census as a resident of Hyde County and the head of a household composed of two males under ten years of age, and one female between the ages of twenty-six and forty-five. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 21.

Samuel Leigh to John Gray Blount

[May 19, 1825]

Mr Blount Sir

I under Stan from Col. Hodgess that you are anxious to have you writes further explored that is to Know how far Gumrock Creek is navigable from Canoes, the basing of it &c.

I Should have accomplished the business before this time had it not been for the wet fall & winter. your wishes Respecting the Creek you Shall be acquainted with by the Elecktion or as Soon as they Can be Sent. I want to Do it Sooner but I can not conveniently do So without Injauring my Business.

Saml Leigh

May 19th 1825

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr
Washington

Redding Shipp to John Gray Blount

BAY RIVER 16 June 1825

Sir

The Day Mr Jones Slye & myself left Washington Slye affirmed that I Should have nothing more to do with the land purchased of you he continued to cut Timber and let to people to git on Shares

I asked a Lawer who advised me to petition for a partition to save cost when the summons was served on Slye & Lincoln Slye purposed a Division and promised to complet the same in a few Days.

In a short time Slye told me that he had given the deed you gave him back to you that he (Slye) had no title to the land—Mr Jone must Depend on you for a right and if I wanted any satisfaction sue him (if I pleased)

The reason that made me believe that he had given up the Deed to you I often herd him say the Timber was all gone and the land was not worth 25 cents per acres, which closed the business with me (2)

If you take the land on possession again and wishes to sell and will give your deed to the purchais's and receive the payment with some

Credit (and let it be Known on Bay river) the land will be bought by severall people in company and Divided between them

I am ready and willing to give you a plot of all or any pat you wish for and to Shew the land to any person you may direct to me for that purpose Except John Slye

Mr Slye would not have the deed you gave him recorded nether would he sell land except the payment was made to himself

I am Sir yours

respectfully
Redding Shipp

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr
Washington
N.C.

Stow & Whittier to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON Aug^t 3, 1825

John G Blount Esq
Washington N. C.

Sir

Your valued favour of the 11th July was duly received, and would have been replied to immediately, but having placed the Note taken for the Corn in Bank for Collection we waited for its payment. But when at maturity we ware much disappointed to find the Note protected for non-payment. You will observe by the Sales which ware sent you the 25 of May, last, a copy of which is here enclosed that the balance of Corn was sold to Charles Nixen⁶ payable the 20 of July, he gave his note with his Brothers James & Robert Nixen⁷ as endorsers, both men of property, and we had not the least doubt that the note would have been promptly paid when due. Charles informs us that he was disappointed in not recovering 500 Blls of Turpentine (which it appears he has at a County

⁶Charles Nixen (spelled *Nixon*) is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household in New Hanover County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, New Hanover County, 46.

⁷James and Robert Nixen (spelled *Nixon*) are both listed in the 1820 census as heads of households in New Hanover County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, New Hanover County, 30, 46.

Store of his) owing to the low state of the River above, that with this turpentine he intends making the payment and thinks that he shall be enabled to do so in about three weeks, we conceive the Note to be safe but regret much this want of promptness—Over (2) Our letter of the 25 of May covering Sales must have miscar[ried.] On examining the sales since we find we ware in error as it regards the quantity of Corn, in the sales item 142 1/2 Bushels thare is 50 bushels to much, the mistake originated by our entering 50 bushels to Capt Savage which he afterwards refused to take, leaveing the balance to you credit when collected Five hundred thirty two dollars & nine cents entitled to interest from the 23^d of July. We will do all in our power to collect this note as early as possible, and when collected [illegible] the am^t as directed

Yours respectfully
Stow & Whittier

P. S. three Cargos of Corn sold last week at 75^t firm on board the vessels, but it is now plenty at 50 afloat

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Merchant
Washington N. C.

W. R. Swift⁸ to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 9 Aug. 1825

Dear Sir

The news received from Liverpool yesterday by the Braganza has had a wonderful effect on the phizzes [?] of some of our Cotten holders—and I only hope that their troubles may terminate there, but I cannot expect

⁸W. R. Swift was a prominent resident of Washington, North Carolina, and had numerous business and political connections with the Blounts. During the presidential campaign of 1823-1824, Swift organized the first public meeting in North Carolina in support of the People's Ticket. It was this meeting that led to William A. Blount's selection as a Calhoun elector on the People's Ticket and to John Gray Blount's work on a committee of correspondence designed to increase Calhoun's support in the area. A personal friend of Calhoun, Swift, along with John Devereux and William Gaston, received campaign literature from the South Carolina candidate. Swift was also active in the First Presbyterian Church in Washington, organized in 1823. Reed, *Beaufort County*, 146; Newsome, *Election of 1824 in North Carolina*, 51, 51n-52n, 84n. See also 1824, nn. 8, 24.

but there will be some crashing, as money is very scarce & the banks quite costive.

I am glad to know you got rid of all your Cotten & the last at such wholesome prices. What it will now settle at is difficult to conjecture—probably about 15. @ 16 c^{ts}—I transmit you herewith an Oration delivered by a *N. Carolina* Cadet of the 2nd Class at W. Point, also a Liverpool paper to give you some idea of the extensive business done at that port.

I informed you in my letter (2) by Cap Moccock, that I was then pretty busily engaged, with some consignments I found on my arrival, others more valuable are on their way, and on the whole I think my prospects very fair, which I name to you because I have had such kind proof of the interest you take in my welfare—Rodman⁹ is at Long Branch, I am very anxious to go and see him and must steal a day for that purpose. His general health I understand was improved at Saragota [Saratoga?] but his lameness the same. Present my respects to the young ladies & believe me

JG. Blount Esq
(3) Naval Stores *very dull*
Cotten no late sales

Dear Sir
Your obliged hbl s^t
W R Swift

Addressed: J. G Blount Esq^r

*Peter Lohra to John Devereux DeLacy*¹⁰

PHILADELPHIA October 15 1825

Dear Sir,

I have received your two favors and also M^r Haroldson's letter to you which I now return. I have been waiting to have some documents copied for your perusal, but the Young man to whom I gave them to *copy*, has not yet done it. I am afraid M^r Haroldson will not have it in his power to do anything in relation to Morhouses business.

Judge Griffith, as the Trustee of the heirs of Morhouse has sold all his property in Louisiana at Public auction where it brought \$29,000. I was present at the sale and cautioned purchasers against purchasing alleging that I had a claim although the Judgements appeared, by some unac-

⁹This is probably a reference to William W. Rodman. See 1812, n. 15.

¹⁰For John Devereux DeLacy see 1812, n. 37.

countable means, to have been satisfied and satisfaction entered which appears to have been done in 1813 by a Mr. Gaines, attorney for Morhouse appearing in Court, and upon Motion the Court ordered them to be committed [?] (2) and satisfaction to [be] entered. I have lately put all the documents relating to that business into the hands of an Attorney I have here, who has a friend at New Orleans whom he has written to about it. There never was I believe so much fraud and villainy practised as in this concern, and I much fear that all will be finally lost. In the course of a few days I will forward you the documents alluded to. I wish it was in your power to credit [?] me with a few hundred dollars as I am very much pressed for some old demands which it is not in my power to meet in consequence of my Spanish claim having been refuted by the Commissioners. We continue to enjoy good health M^{rs} L. begs to be remembered to you.

Adieu and believe me to remain
Your assured Friend
Peter Lohra

John D. DeLacy Esq
Addressed: John D. DeLacy Esq^r
Attorney at Law
Raleigh
North Carolina

W. R. Swift to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK
7 Nov 1825

Dear Sir,

By a packet ship which arrived last night from Liverpool we have letters to 1st Oct. inclusive—Inferior uplands had declined about 1/4^d and but little enquired after, but good qualities were “scarce and in general demand & fully maintain their value.” Uplands 7 1/4 to 10 1/2^d—Sales of the article had been less the past week than usual. Turpentine “declining”—prices on are not furnished. Knowing your interest and anxiety in the Cotton market induces me to tax you with postage for the information. I wrote you by Cap^t Austin who sailed yesterday as did M^{rs} S. to Miss Olivia.

En. London
 9 [illegible] p^m
 Jn^o Gray Blount Esq

Respectfully
 Your friend & ser^t
 W. R. Swift

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
 Washington
 N. Carolina

Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON Dec^r 8 1825

My Dear Sir

From the letters with which you favoured on the 9th of March 1824 it appears that the lands conveyed to me by John Hall¹¹ in the Dismal Swamp were not sold for Taxes, this led me to search for my title Deeds but I have not been able to find them; it has occurred to me that possibly I might have sent them to you, or to some other to have recorded. may I ask you if you have any recollection of this, and if you have not whether you can without too much trouble ascertain whether my Deeds are on record or not. Can you also give me a rough Sketch of the Situation of those lands and let me know Whether they are wooded and how far they be from navigation I suppose they are quite incapable of Cultivation with many apologies for the trouble I give you believe me to be with great Respect

And Esteem
 Your Friend & Hble Ser^t
 Edw Livingston

Addressed: John G Blount Esq
 Washington
 North Carolina

¹¹For John Hall see 1803, n. 13.

1826

*Willie Blount to Olivia Blount*¹

BAKERDON² Jan'y 1st 1826

Dear Niece,

I have not been unmindful of you, nor of my promise to write you, but have been prevented from indulging in the pleasure of a performance of my promise to write, by necessary attention to business, and that business, has consisted mostly of writing about things which do not generally engage the attention of females, whose employments are commonly of a more interesting kind, than complicated out-door affairs—

My journey home was attended with no difficulty, as I had not to encounter either rain, snow, ice, or high waters, my horse travelling well, & my health uninterrupted, as has been the case ever since my visit to Carolina renewed my health: so much for seeing friends—

I arrived at home about the 25th July, and my youngest daughter, Lucinda Baker Caroline Dortch,³ presented me with a fine grand son (Willie Blount) a few days old—not long afterwards Nancy⁴ gave us another grand daughter, (not yet named), who her sister Lucinda Jane says, is a pretty red haired little child—I found Major Baker,⁵ family, & friends, all well—in presenting them with your tender of kind affectionate regard, it was rec^d with the joy of relations reciprocating your & the family's love—our connexions at Knoxville experienced & expressed similar joys, on the mention of your affectionate attachment for them—Richard & his family, did the same—and they all, as well as M^r Miller & family are in good health—

To make a visit to distant relations, after an absence of more than twenty years as I did to mine in Carolina last spring, finding them in

¹Lucy Olivia Blount was one of John Gray Blount's daughters. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 96n.

²Bakerdon was apparently Willie Blount's estate near Clarksville in Montgomery County, Tennessee.

³Willie Blount's daughter Lucinda was married to John Dortch. They had two surviving children, John Baker Dortch and Nancy Dortch, at the time of Willie Blount's death in 1835. Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, lxi, 32, 130; Will of Willie Blount, Tennessee State Archives.

⁴Willie Blount's second daughter, Eliza Ann Blount, was perhaps nicknamed Nancy. She married Dr. John T. Dabney and had two children, Jane and Mildred Dabney. Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, lxi, 32, 130; Will of Willie Blount, Tennessee State Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

⁵For John Baker see 1817, n. 36.

health, produces sensations easily imagined, but which I know not how to describe—whilst among them, I experienced no shade of inquietude but the thoughts of leaving them—and I am so made, that if I form new acquaintances, at a place, of a few days standing only, I regret leaving them, and to part from affectionate relations, is a bitter pill to me—the only way I have to account for such feelings is, that I fancy my whole soul is with them, a belief in which I indulge most freely, both present, and absent, as a balm to life; & this I have it for a rule to do, each, and every day, wheresoever I be or whatsoever I may be about—by this practice I am, in part, with them daily, tho I neither see them, nor hear their conversation; and this, is my consolatory practice altho' I but seldom hear from them—

Not long since I had the pleasure of receiving a letter, dated in July, from my Niece Ann C. Blount;⁶ in which, she mentioned that the family had all been sick, as well as herself; but had gotten well before she wrote—In connection with (2) the token of affectionate regard which the receipt of letters from relations one, to another gives, may be viewed the importance of their frequently writing, which is very great; inasmuch as time, and frequent changes of place, and as frequent changes of circumstances often renders information of each other, of their pursuits, and of their condition in life, very interesting; and again near relations, raised in different parts of the world, grow up, who are entirely unknown to each other, even by name, greatly to their injury; which might in a great degree, be remedied, nay, perhaps wholly avoided, by timely attention to the relations of social intercourse; which may easily be maintained, by epistolary correspondence, with the mention, frequently, of what relates to family matters, and to such subjects as relate to them—owing to a neglect of correspondence, we often see advertisements in news papers, inserted by some relation, inquiring for the residence of another, when perhaps, there is a post route leading from the residence of one, to the other—in such cases, neglects are unpardonable—but above all, the fond attachments naturally ingrafted in us, one for the other as connexions & the cherishing of them, are of themselves sufficient to excite all relatives to the maintenance of social relations the most improving course of employment of our minds also that we can adopt for ourselves—I thus think about such things: yet, I am negligent, and of course inexcusable, tho' I do often write to one or another of our numerous connexion—

Some families keep a genealogical tree, with its branches, spread in various directions, by which, they know the old stock, and can trace

⁶For Ann C. Blount see 1818, n. 14.

every branch of their connexions, in any part of the world, the tree shewing the names, the residence & seperate connexion of each, & so on, from their great, great grand father & mother, down to the youngest infant of any branch of the family, & I confess I would like to see & to possess such an one of my family—there is a Col. Taylor of Kentucky, a relation of Gen^l Gaines,⁷ who told him, he had such a tree of his family, and that he could, by the aid of the information it affords of his family, travel over three States, and sleep at the house of some one of his family connexion every night, travelling not more than thirty miles a day—this may never be of further use to him than the gratification it affords, but that, of itself, is great and worth the trouble of making the tree, which may, eventually, be of use to others—I don't know the names of my grandfather & grandmother, nor any thing about their connexions, nor where they lived, nor where they were raised, and often feel ashamed and mortified at my ignorance—it is often, in a great degree owing to these unpardonable neglects, that family connexions become indifferent to each other, & from a want of timely advice & aid, conveniently in the power of some to afford to the others, that their educations are neglected, & their prospects in life are ruined—I often figure to myself the view of a family, meeting, imagining, that I see joy depicted in every countenance, & likewise practising free & friendly conversations, & contrast such meeting, with the cold silence, and indifference of the same family, when distance separates them, never interchanging an idea with each other, when no want of affection is known to, or felt by either of them, for the other—surely the contrast is very great, & for no unavoidable cause—the most pleasing side of the contrast is my choice, & I hope ever will be, & I feel satisfied that it is the choice of every branch of our family, who have ever been remarkable for proper affection for each other, even to the remotest connexion.

You live near to Col. Taylor who is connected with my late neighbor and much valued friend Major J. E. Turner—you can inform the family, that he died a few days since, after being confined about three weeks, by

⁷General Edmund Pendleton Gaines (1777-1849) was a career army officer whose second wife was Barbara Blount, William Blount's daughter. Gaines spent most of his career along the frontier, surveying the road from Tennessee to Natchez, Mississippi (1801-1804), participating in the arrest of Aaron Burr, and fighting in several Indian wars. He achieved his first military fame as a hero in the War of 1812 and later fought with Jackson in the Creek and Seminole wars. He also served in the Black Hawk war, and the Florida war of 1835. At the outbreak of the Mexican War Gaines ignored official orders and used volunteer troops in the first stages of fighting. This led to a court-martial, although the charges against him were eventually dropped. He remained in the army until his death. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xixn; Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 323; *Who Was Who*, 264.

reason of a large Tumor or ulcer of uncommon Kind, proceeding from no (3) [illegible] resembling, as the Doctors say, a carbuncle—he has left two daughters and a son by his first marriage, & a widow & one son by the last marriage—in life he was universally respected and in his death, as universally regretted—he was an honest, friendly, independent & useful man to whom I was attached—

Tell Thomas, William, Patsy, W. L. Blount & Jacob, Geo. I never saw, Caroline, Polly, & their husbands, as well as Mr. Rodman, that their first letters have not yet come to hand since I had the pleasure of seeing them at their hospitable homes, and say to Reading, that his letters have failed to come to hand also, & say likewise, that I heard a day or two ago that Willie & his family had arrived at his wife's mother's, all well—I know your father will write as often as he can—when you see William Blackledge tell him, that I think he is an interesting correspondent, that not a word of his letters proves to be the least exceptionable—tell all the children how do, for me

Major Baker & family, and my daughters & theirs, desire me to tender for them, their salutations of affectionate regard to you and to our connexions near you—I am

Your affectionate Uncle
Willie Blount

Miss Olivia Blount

Addressed: Miss Olivia Blount
Washington
Beaufort County
North Carolina

James H. Causten to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON January 24, 1826

D Sir

It is long since I had the pleasure of addressing you (and still longer since I had the pleasure of receiving any of your favors) but, rest assured, that the spoliation claim has not been neglected.

I intimated to several Senators, some days ago, that I felt it my duty to ask of the Senate a renewal of their resolution, of March 5, 1824, requesting the President to cause to be laid before the Senate copies of the In-

structions to our several Ministers to France, and of the Correspondence between said Ministers and the French Government, having relation to the spoliations committed on the Commerce of the United States by that Power prior to the 30th of Sep^r 1800: that there had been several assurances by the Secretary of State that the same would be furnished, and in one instance, in May 1824, a direct and official communication to that effect was made to the Senate—but that nothing had yet been done. Two of the gentlemen, after alleging their apprehension that a removal of the call would be offensive to M^r Clay,⁸ and possibly to the President also, proposed to first visit M^r C and learn what he had done or contemplated to do. M^r C having expressed to Gen. Smith some difficulty in comprehending the extent of the papers required (but without manifesting the least reluctance to meet the call)—the General suggested to him the propriety of my being permitted to assist in making the selection, by which means the object of the resolution would be fully accomplished—To which he readily assented. In consequence I presented myself at the (2) State Department, and made arrangements to commence the task. I am surprised to find that no step whatever has been taken toward meeting the requirements of the resolution referred to. And, from the insolent character of the Clerks in the Bureau where the papers are deposited, I should despair of ever obtaining my object, even with a renewed call of Congress, without the aid of my own personal exertions. I have been given to understand that a chamber and a Copying Clerk will be assigned to me, and free access to Books & Papers of every description.

If that free access to the Papers be afforded me which is promised, I trust I shall be able to make the preparation sufficiently early to enable the Senate to report upon the Memorials within the present session of Congress.

I am this day informed, by undoubted authority, that M^r Clay is entirely favorable to the claims as against the United States.

M^r Everett,⁹ member of Congress from Massachusetts, to whom I sent many papers and a long communication last summer, has embodied them in an able exposition of our case in the last North American

⁸Henry Clay was secretary of state at this time, serving from 1825 to 1829. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 170.

⁹Edward Everett (1794-1865) was a prominent Unitarian minister in Boston and a professor at Harvard. As a National-Republican he served in the United States House of Representatives from 1825 to 1835. He held other important posts in the federal government and was governor of Massachusetts from 1836 to 1840. In 1860 he was the vice-presidential candidate on the ticket of the Constitutional Union party. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 927. Everett had served as editor of the *North American Review* in 1819. *Who Was Who*, 242.

Review¹⁰—I have deemed this production of great importance to the claimants, and have made arrangements to have the same inserted in the newspapers in all the Cities in the United States; and I now submit to you the propriety of pursuing that course in yours—I have also had 300 Copies printed in the pamphlet form for the use of Congress, one of which I send to you this day. I beg you to inform the claimants of your city the state of our case as detailed in this (3) letter; and it can hardly be necessary to caution them against publishing any part of it (or any other of my letters, which I write with great freedom) in the newspapers—for when I wish that course to be pursued I shall be distinctly understood.

With much respect, I am, D Sir,
Your Mo Ob^t Sev^t
James H. Causten

Mr LeRoy's contribution would be very acceptable, and I am on every consideration entitled to his prompt attention.

John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington N.C.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
Washington N.C.

James H. Causten to John Gray Blount [printed copy]

WASHINGTON March 27th, 1826

D^r Sir

I have the pleasure to inform you that, on a suggestion to the Secretary of State, at the opening of the present session of Congress, that a renewal of the resolution passed by the Senate on the 5th of March, 1824, (requiring copies of all the papers relating to the claims to indemnity for spoliations committed by the French, prior to the 30th of September, 1800, to be laid before the Senate) would be demanded; he assented to a proposition to permit me, in behalf of the claimants, to make the selec-

¹⁰The article referred to here by Causten appeared as follows: "Claims for French Spoliations; report of the Committee of Foreign Relations, of the House of Representatives of the United States, to which were referred the Memorials of certain Merchants, praying Relief for Losses sustained by French Spoliations, 1824," *North American Review*, new series XIII (1826), XXII, 136-162.

tion of the papers embraced by said resolution, with a view to meet it. I readily undertook the task; and on the 18th of January last, he assigned to me a copying clerk, and gave me access to Papers and Books of all descriptions. Since that time, every moment has been devoted to this duty—there is already an immense mass of papers copied, and of the whole work, probably two-thirds is performed. No exertion shall be spared to complete the whole in the shortest possible time; and it is confidently expected that they will be sent to the Senate, and be printed, within the session—but nothing further within the session can be reasonably expected, unless it should be extended much further than is now contemplated.

You will naturally be anxious to learn the character and weight of the papers referred to. Being intrusted with them confidentially, it does not become me to state particulars: but I feel myself authorized to make, and justified in the declaration, that when these papers are disclosed—to use the words of a highly intelligent and most respectable president of an Insurance Company, to whom I communicated the character of a single paper—"I shall be astonished if there should be found an honest man in the nation, opposed to indemnifying the claimants."

I have studiously avoided communicating the merits of the subject to Members of Congress, being of the opinion, that their first impressions should be well secured, and that those would be best obtained from the official papers.

I ought not to omit renewing my former advice, that is of the very last importance to have all the claims represented by Memorial. Hence, after the papers shall have been disclosed, I respectfully recommend that you will urge the negligent claimants to make application for blank Memorials for their signatures, which I will forward as advised.

I am, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant
James H. Causten

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount

at home, June 26th 1826 MADISON COUNTY
7 1/2 miles north of
Jackson
Dyers creek

D Sir I rec^d yours of the 8th of May last yesterday. I had been from home however for two months, which will account for my not receiving it sooner, you mention that you had appointed M^r Hogg your agent, he is a very valuable man about money matters, & as I believe every way to be trusted but with a view to a sale of your lands he might as well be in the moon, beside it has not been two weeks since he told me that his agency extended only to the payment of your Taxes. Whosoever shall act in relation to your lands ought to be personally acquainted with every Tract & ought be ready to shew your lands to strangers, when they visit this country with a view to purchase. lands have not risen in price, except in the settled parts—sales may be more certainly made—and prices are looking up. the price of Cotton is a damper to some extent, large sales cannot I think be made but at low prices—I have no knowledge of any of your Tracts of land—those in Gipson are spoken of as good lands. that county is thinly inhabited, & excessively heavy Timbered & scarce of water, the Bonner Tract is said to be fine land & I have no doubt requires attention, I heard of one or more claimants but how or what way or by whom I did not inquire, two Tracts in that county of Partnership Lands have been sold for the Taxes & purchased by me. They were not listed by your agent, I presume they have been heretofore sold, if so let the matter be. they are 1,000 acre Tracts. I have mentioned that your agent ought to reside here, it is not even good nonsense to have one else where, figure to yourself a man who has Traveled 7 or 8 hundred mile, Tired of every thing, is it likely that he would Travel 150 miles to see an agent, who might be some fifty miles off at court and of (2) whom he could know nothing Will he do this, when there [are] 100 sellers ready, to ride to any point of the compass. I do not mention this with a view, to obtain the agency for it is wholly out of my way, & one that I am absolutely unquallified for, there are many enquirers this summer for land, more of them seem to be men of property, but I have no information. All I can at present say is that you have lands for sale but where they lie there value &c &c I know nothing—any information I could obtain at court, would only be general & that I suppose you have from the locaters. I live near Sugars McLamore, & have seen on the plain the 640 perhaps in your name, & his but a few miles below me, & would prob-

ably sell at a fair price in the course of the winter or spring. My Neighbour is filling up with Virginians Doctor Wiatt¹¹ & W. G. Blount have removed to this District 60 miles North of this at Parris—if you have any Law suits here or at Nashvill I can attend to them say in the Federal or supreme court—these lawsuits however every sensible man will avoid, but if it must come you ought to have some one on your part, I take this opportunity of saying to you that my prospets here as a professional man are highly flattering—I am well situated own 1337 acres where I live have good water & Good land & my family up to this time healthy. if any thing occurs likely to meet your views as to sales for cash I will inform your agent. Mary joins in wishing you and yours good health & good spirits so long as you may desire them

I am D Sir yours &c
P M Miller

I suppose you know that I had executed a release & gave it to your son John for any supposed interest that I might have in right of my wife to the partnership lands except that Devised by your Brother to her so have no *interest* what ever, I will have no mixed interest I would rather be poor

(3) Suppose a man wished to purchase 500 acres out of any one thousand you have. What would M^r Hogg know about it. Might he not sell every foot that was good for anything. he probably never saw one foot of your Lands, & I am sure never will

Addressed: John G Blount
Washington
North Carolina

*William Augustus Blount's Conveyance of
Property to William W. Rodman*

[July 23, 1826]

Whereas on the 21^a day of February 1826, William W. Rodman by deed bearing the above date conveyed to me in trust for certain purposes mentioned in said deed several negroes & other property, and whereas I am unwilling to take upon myself the execution of said trusts there in ex-

¹¹Dr. Edwin Wiatt was married to Eliza Blount, one of William Blount's daughters. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, I, xixn.

pressed, or in any manner whatsoever to receive said property, now Know all men, that I William Augustus Blount do hereby release said property as conveyed to me by the said William W. Rodman, and hereby transfer the same to the said W. W. Rodman his heirs Execs. Admrs. & assigns in as full & ample manner as tho' the same had never been assigned to me, the said property having been conveyed to me without my consent, & is now released from said conveyance without any liability on my part—In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 23rd July 1826—

Will Aug^t Blount (Seal)

Witness

Z. W. Barrow

Thomas Brown¹² to John Gray Blount

WESTBROOK P. O. BLADEN Aug 15 1826

Dear Sir,

Some years have elapsed since I have addressed you on the subject of your lands in Bladen. I live so remote from your lands and being much pressed in my own affairs, that I have been able to do nothing more for you than to pay the taxes of the land, from year to year. I have had frequent applications from purchasers, but the price offered was twenty five to fifty cents per acre. I told the purchasers that I would not sell at that price without seeing the land. I looked upon the price too small for any land that was worth purchasing at all. I have never been on a foot of your land in my life tho' lying in my own County. I learn recently of much trespass being made there on, in getting Furr Timber for the Steam Mills & also shingles. I have the names of the Trespassers and have sent word to them to come forward with their Bills & pay me a fifth of the price received. I looked upon this as the best course for your interest. The difficulty of proof & the expense of lawsuits forbid any other course. The fifth of the proceeds at (2) Market is the usual toll for all timber in this quarter. I think it would be better for you to let out your tim-

¹²Two Thomas Browns are listed in the 1820 census for Bladen County. One was single, and the other had a family of three. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Bladen County, 23, 31.

ber on all your lands. There are three Steam Saw Mills that will be in operation this winter in Wilmington—the price of Furr Timber is \$4. p^r M. for all sticks under thirty feet, \$4.50 between thirty & forty, & \$5. for all over forty. Shingles of the largest class, 22 inches long thick and wide, will command in the winter \$3.00. No one in the neighbourhood of your lands can purchase unless it be those who are already full Landed. It is infested with a pack that live from hand to mouth. I am offered by M^r Jas Cromartie¹³ & a M^r Larkins¹⁴ fifty cents p^r acre for some lands adjoining them. I await your consent. I think the sum too little, and that you can get more than that sum by letting out your Timber & afterwards you may be able to sell at present offered prices. I wish for your instructions.

I labour under difficulty in knowing which and where are your lands between S^o River & Colley. A difference of opinion is among the people. (3) I claim all. I have some plats &c touching your Columbus land—but as to your Bladen & New Hanover land I have no trace of a pen. The land should be speedily run out & fixed as to boundery of each tract. I pay Tax for the rise of four thousand acres—This quantity was handed me by John Ellis y^r former Agent. As to your land in Columbus I have not seen or heard of them for some years—I have reason to believe they remain as a dead letter beyond the knowledge of controul of the Sheriff or any one else.

I am making every arrangement to remove to the State of Tennessee next summer. I spoke to M^r Owen Holmes Atto. at Law, Wilmington, whether he would officiate as y^r Agent & Atto. touching your landed interest in this quarter of the State. He gave me no definite answer. I know him to be honest diligent & punctual. His Brother is Shff of New Hanover—and from this and other considerations I think he is best calculated of any one I know to do you justice.

Yours most respectfully

Th: Brown

Write me to Westbrook Post Office, Bladen

Addressed: John G. Blount, S^r Esq^r

Washington

Beaufort County

N^o C^a

¹³James Cromarty is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of six. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Bladen County, 26.

¹⁴Four men with the last name of Larkins are listed in the census for Bladen County. This reference could be to any one of them. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Bladen County, 3, 18.

*John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount*TARBORO Oct^r 18th 1826

By M^r Cottons Flat I send five bales of Cotton marked I.G.B.—N^o 1. 322^{lb} N^o 2. 314 N^o 3. 318 N^o 4. 309 No. 5. 314—As I am in immediate want of about \$100 to pay my taxes & two small executions against me, I should be glad you could sell them at Washington, or if more advisable you can ship them—I should be glad to get a Bll. of *New Flour* by the return of the flat—You will please pay M^r Steward for the Bagⁿ & Rope out of the cotton sent—& as I neglected to write for Twine when I wrote for the Bgⁿ I should like to get some by the Flat's return—We are well & send love to the family—

There was some man up from Washington a few days since who told my Overseer that M^r W^m Ellison¹⁵ had requested him to carry down my Horse for him—I did not see the man, nor hear of it until he had left here—I should be glad that M^r Ellison (2) would purchase him—I will send him down if he will take him—I was about to exchange him for two mules which my neighbour had offered for him, but prefer selling—

Your Obd^t Son
JG Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Car^o

By Mr. Cottons Flat

*Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount*Dc^r 6th [1826]

Dear Sir,

I have just risen up from a close reading of the huge Volume of Documents furnished me by M^r Hines, concerning French Spoiliations.¹⁶ I confess I am amazed, now that I have seen the progress and termination of this nefarious transaction. The enterprize & capital of American Citi-

¹⁵The man referred to here is probably William J. Ellison. See 1820, n. 5.

¹⁶For information on French spoliation claims see 1823, n. 17.

zens are encouraged abroad, by the assurances of our Government of safety & protection, in a lawful trade; and when both fell a prey to the most lawless free booters of the Ocean, instead of an appeal to arms, to chastise such aggression, & compel indemnity for the losses and ruin inflicted upon the Sufferers, and American Commerce, Years were wasted in idle negotiation, and, at length, all, all are surrendered up to French Cupidity & Violence, by a Conventional Contract, which indeed purchased for our Country, a release from a Garrantee, which would have cost more money & life, than all the commerce of the Nation was worth, if its fulfillment had been exacted. No one doubts the Soundness of the policy which purchased its abrogation, but then it was, of all wrongs, the most odious of all injustice the most vexatious, for the Government to lay their hands upon the Millions of their (2) fellow Citizens, wrested by violence from them upon the Ocean, by the veriest of Pirates, and give those Millions, to purchase their peace, and their popularity, without deining to indemnify the Sufferers. And what is still the more remarkable, is, that in the Louisiana purchase, and reservation, Millions should have been reserved to satisfy a particular Class of Sufferers & not a Cent to pay to equal sufferers of another Class. Why were not the Washington & Eastern shore merchants, whose property was plundered in the West India Seas, as worthy of this justice as those who were plundred in the ports of France? And beside all—in the purchase of Louisiana, it is admitted on all sides, that the United States, obtained a bargain equal to the entire losses of the Nation, by France, over & beside what they paid to the French Government—And yet, the United States refuse even after nearly 30 years delay to do any thing towards the reimburesment of their Suffering Merchants! It is odious & abominable. I have just turned to the file of Papers of the Schooner Peggy, which M^r Simpkins was so (3) careful to preserve—and find the Bill of Lading for the Cargo—the Sailing orders of the Captain—particularly charging him to proceed to Maderia—& no where else unless driven by Stress of Weather. the Protest of the Master made in Gaudaloupe—the Process Verbal of the Trial & Condemnation of the Vessel & Cargo, signed by the Judges—with their Seal, in French & Translated & Certified by a Notary in English in that Island. From these it appears—that the Schooner Sailed from Virginia on 10th De^c 1797, Laden with Corn & Peas for Maderia—That the Captain was lost overboard, in a Gale of Wind on the 18th of Dec^r and on the 14th Jany, 1798, she was Captured by the French Pirateer La Fraternite—carried into Guadaloupe & Condemned—“altho’ she was furnished with a Register, Sea Letter, Role d’equipage & other papers necessary for the proof of her being nutral property as well as her Cargo”—the Sole pretence of Capture & Condemnation being, that “at the time

of her Capture, she was found running away from a Ship of the French Republic & steering towards an enemys port"! Such was the miserable pretence in this case. After reading all these over (4) I have judged it might not be amiss for me to lay the whole Case, in the form of a nervous Petition before Congress; perhaps it may rouse up the slumberings of Congress at the present conjuncture. Something must be done—or all is over for the Claimants. Many of the members of Congress will not be at the pains to read the Volume. Hines has not, & many others have not, beyond all doubt. I found he had a sort of impression that France was still bound—and that there would be no hope of indemnity until the United States & France should again go to War—then, in the Peace, these claims would be attended to—As foolish as groundless.

What think you of my project?

Yours

Jos. B Hinton

J. B. Blount Esqr

[No address]

1827

Wesley Brake to William Augustus Blount

NASH COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA February 22nd 1827

M^r William A Blount Sir I have sent to William Elison two or three times for my Trunk and Cloaths and he says they have not come there but I understand that you say you have sent them there, and if so they must have bin distroyed therefore I shall expect them made good to me by you—

I sent the note I held against you to McDades for you to pay off but I suppose you did not feel willing to Settle it by Reason of your paying some accounts for me but I am willing to discount 40 Cents for Lisha Arnal and \$2 1/2 for Richard Grice and the ballance of the note I request you to pay in cash to the bearer Willie Ricks¹ by whom I send the note to you and by doing it you will oblige yours &c

Wesley Brake

Addressed: M^r William A Blount
Beauford County N. C.
by M^r Willie Ricks

¹Willie Ricks is listed as the head of a household in the 1820 census for Nash County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Nash County, 16.

Joseph Gales² to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH Mar. 20, 1827

Sir,

I was directed by the Board of Agriculture,³ at its late meeting, to inform you of your appointment as a Member of the Committee of Correspondence of the Board.

The following were the duties prescribed for this Committee at the establishment of the Board:

"The Committee of Correspondence shall open & carry on with practical Farmers & other intelligent persons, a Correspondence, for the purpose of collecting useful information on the various branches of Husbandry & Rural Economy, and shall regularly deliver over to the Secretary of the Board, the results of such enquiries & correspondence."

Any information which you may be able to impart to the Board, will be thankfully received.

Respectfully
Jo. Gales, Sec^y

²Joseph Gales, Sr. (1761-1841), an English newspaperman forced to flee England in 1794 because of his liberal political crusades, arrived in America in 1795 and settled in Philadelphia. There he operated a newspaper and made the first verbatim report on the proceedings of the United States Congress, then meeting in Philadelphia. He met members of the North Carolina delegation who convinced him to move to Raleigh in 1799. That year he began publishing the influential *Raleigh Register and North-Carolina Weekly Advertiser*, later changed to *Raleigh Register and North-Carolina Gazette*, the official voice of the Jeffersonian Republicans. Gales also secured the contract for state printer in 1800 and became deeply involved in civic affairs, serving as Raleigh's mayor for nineteen years. His oldest son, Joseph Gales, Jr., pursued a publishing career in Washington, D.C., where he and his brother-in-law, William W. Seaton, published the *National Intelligencer*, purchased by Joseph Gales, Sr., in 1807. Leaving the Raleigh paper in charge of his son Weston R. Gales in 1833, Joseph Gales, Sr., followed Joseph, Jr., to Washington where he compiled the first two *Annals of Congress*. Gales later returned to Raleigh where he lived until his death. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 324; Robert Neal Elliott, Jr., *The Raleigh Register, 1799-1863* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1955), v-vi, 3-57, 71, 122; William S. Powell (ed.), "The Diary of Joseph Gales, 1794-1795," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XXVI (1949), 335-336, 344-347; *Who Was Who*, 265.

³The North Carolina Board of Agriculture, created by the General Assembly in 1822, was designed to promote the state's agriculture and domestic manufacturing. The initial appropriation allotted to the board was \$10,000, with a yearly appropriation of \$5,000 thereafter. The board was composed of the presidents of the county agricultural societies that had been organized to encourage improved, scientific farming methods. Cornelius Oliver Cathey, *Agricultural Development in North Carolina, 1783-1860* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1956), 77; Ashe, *History of North Carolina*, II, 286.

Your Colleagues on this Committee are,⁴

Tho^s G. Polk, Charlotte
 Isaac T. Avery, Morganton
 Sam^l King, Iredell
 John Gilchrist, Robeson
 B. U. Carrington, Richmond
 Charles Williams, Chatham
 John Hill, Stokes

Addressed: John G. Blount, sen. Esq^r
 Washington
 N. C.

Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 7 Apl. 1827

Dear Sir

I have just rec^d your letter enclosing the title Deed & papers relative to my 6000 acres on the waters of Alligator River: the disposition I had hoped to make of them having failed I must beg the favor of you to continue your good offices, in keeping me advised of any thing you think will interest me on this subject. your letters directed to this place will be forwarded to me wherever I may be.

With many thanks for your obliging letter to me I am D^r Sir

your Obliged H^{bl} Serv^t
 Edw Livingston

John G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
 Washington
 N Carolina

⁴B. U. Carrington, John Hill, and Charles Williams have not been identified. Isaac T. Avery, John Gilchrist, Samuel King, and Thomas G. Polk all served terms in the General Assembly. Gilchrist represented Robeson County for over fifty years. Avery served two terms on the Council of State. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 174, 176, 228-315 passim.

*An Offer of Mediation to
Richard D. Spaight⁵*

[April 19, 1827]

It has been suggested to the undersigned by many of the respectable and reciprocal friends of M^r Spaight and D^r Carthy that their interposition might be useful towards settling the unfortunate misunderstanding which has taken place between them—Yeilding to this suggestion and anxious from the purest motives to promote an end so desirable, we have undertaken the office—The undersigned are confident that they have a full view of the whole grounds of the controversy, and unite in the following opinions and awards—

1st It is our opinion and belief that the acts & occurrences that proved offensive to M^r Spaight were not designed or intended to be insulting—

2nd That however harmlessly they may have been intended, they were inappropriate to the place and offensive in their character, and sufficient to justify M^r Spaight in receiving them offensively, and requiring of D^r Carthy an explanation of his conduct that should be satisfactory—

3rd It is our opinion that an absolute challenge in this state of things is premature; because it precludes explanation on the part of the party challenged, and ought only (2) to be resorted to when the offended party had made up his mind that mortal combat and that only should atone for the offence—

Under this view of the case the undersigned conclude that M^r Spaight's note to D^r Carthy ought to be withdrawn to afford opportunity to the latter Gentleman to make explanation—And the challenge being withdrawn that D^r Carthy is bound to disclaim all intention of insulting M^r Spaight by the conduct excepted to and apologise for its freedom and that such explanation ought to be received by M^r Spaight as satisfactory—

It is expected by the Undersigned that the parties concerned will signify to them in writing under seal, their acquiescence in or rejection of these terms of accomodation on or before the 1st day of July next, to be

⁵ Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr. (1796-1850), son of a former governor who was killed in a duel in 1802, was an influential politician from New Bern. A graduate of the University of North Carolina and a successful lawyer, Spaight served in both houses of the state legislature almost continuously from 1819 to 1834. He served in the United State Congress (1823-1825) as well, and in 1835 he was elected governor of North Carolina, serving until 1836. Spaight then returned to his law practice in New Bern. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 559n; Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 666; Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, IV, 402-405.

opened at the same time; the whole to be considered as a nullity unless mutually acquiesced in—of which the parties are to be duly apprised by the undersigned—in case of acquiescence by the parties, no farther formality will be required, each party adopting this as his own act—

Newbern
April 19th
1827

J Burgwyn⁶
Tho^s S. Singleton⁷
Edward Graham⁸

Addressed: Richard D. Spaight Esq

Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount

April 23rd 1827

Dear Sir,

I feel it to be my duty to say to you, as the Chairman of the County Court, that one of the days of the last Week, in the absence of M^r Hooker & myself, from the Court House, M^r Long⁹ (the Cabinet Maker, near your residence) entered the Court House and cut to pieces, destroyed and carried away the two large, substantial and admirable Desks, which the Court House Committee, by order of the Court, had, at a Cost of \$15 each, placed there. I understand that he excuses himself, by saying, that M^r Jasper sold the said two Desks to him, at 25 cents

⁶John Fanning Burgwyn (1783-1864), who changed the spelling of his name, was the son of John Burgwin of Wilmington, a prominent planter, businessman, and judge, and Eliza Bush of England. John F. Burgwyn was born in England but lived in Wilmington where he owned a sizeable plantation. Burgwyn was married in 1806 to Sarah P. Hunt, the daughter of Robert Hunt and Eunice Edwards Pollock Hunt, the widow of Thomas Pollock of New Bern. Burgwyn died in Raleigh in 1864. Miller, *Recollections*, 58; Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, VIII, 63; Crabtree and Patton, "*Journal of a Secesh Lady*," xviii.

⁷For Thomas Singleton see 1813, n. 19.

⁸Edward Graham (1765-1838?), the son of Edward Graham of Scotland, was born in New York City, graduated from Princeton in 1785, studied law under John Jay, and eventually settled in New Bern. A prominent lawyer, Graham served in the state legislature in 1797, his only political office. He also acted as John Stanly's second in the 1802 duel that resulted in the death of Governor Richard D. Spaight. Graham was married to Elizabeth Batchelor. Miller, *Recollections*, 16; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 140.

⁹Edward Long was making cabinets in the Washington area in 1823. Ursula F. Loy and Pauline M. Worthy (eds.), *Washington and the Pamlico* (Washington, N.C.: Washington-Beaufort County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 12, hereinafter cited as Loy and Worthy, *Washington and the Pamlico*.

each—and has employed him to make in the place of the said two Desks, four small Tables, about 20 by 30 Inches, upon the top—for which he is to be paid \$5. Thus the Bar is to be disfurnished of the admirable fixtures & furniture it was provided with, and to be vexed with little Tables, far Smaller, & inferior to those which were made by M^r Trotter, in the first instance, for the Bar; and which were found upon trial, to be too light, and easily moved about & upset, by the crowding & moving about in the Bar, for the good order & silence needed in the time of Court Hours—and this very objection caused the order of Court, directing the Contractor to make the Two Desks, and authorized the payment of \$30 for them, as substitutes for the Tables aforesaid. You may recollect that M^r Jasper complained of the size of the Desks at last Court & expressed a wish to (2) shorten them by cutting off a piece of each—and altho' no formal order was made upon the subject I understood you to say to him, if the Bar chose to make the alteration spoken of (as I understood it—shortning the Desks then within the Bar) you had no objection, but I distinctly recollect an impression, then made on my mind, which was this, that in no event was the then furniture to be absolutely removed from the Court. If those excellent Desks were to have been absolutely disposed of, M^r Owens would have given \$5 for one & M^r Shaw would have given \$6 for the other—others would have given as much or more. I feel entirely certain that the Court & Bar, will both soon have cause to regret the exchange, and will find that the little Tables will be a neuscance. It is more over, no trivial affair, for the Building to be entered, & any thing erected by the majesty of the Court, to be *unauthorizedly removed or destroyed* by an individual, on any pretext whatever: if one can do it, another may—if the Desks can be torn to pieces, the Bar itself, the Jury Boxes & the Bench, may all be annihilated & fixed differently, to suit some fancy or other. Nay, the Room itself, may have partitions, or Frog Stools placed about it to gratify some whim or other.

I concieve I ought to communicate the foregoing facts to you—and that it remains for you (3) to require the replacing of the Desks, until the *liberty* to remove them shall have been gotten from the Court, the proprietors thereof—or to sustain the rights & authority of the Court, in such other way, as you may think proper.

Respectfully yours,
Jos. B Hinton

John G Blount Esq^r

P. S. M^r Hooker informs me that on his return to the Court House & finding what had been done in his absence, he went to M^r Long & in-

formed him that the Court House was in his care, & he had acted very improperly & would get himself into trouble for what he had done, unless he carried the Desks & put them back, as he found them—To which M^r Long replied, he cared not for him nor any one else, he had mad[e] fire wood of the Desks & Should not carry any back. But I think he would sing differently if a Rule for Contempt of the Court was served upon him.

JBH

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
Washington

*Richard D. Spaight, Jr., to John Burgwyn, Thomas S. Singleton,
and Edward Graham*

[April 27, 1827]

Gentlemen

Your communication has been received. Its receipt would have been acknowledged sooner had not the absence of one of you (M^r Singleton) at the time of its receipt and since his return the session of the court prevented it. Having many objections to the matter and form it is only necessary to say I can not give it my acquiescence

April 27th

(Copy) With sentiments of Respect I am
Your Ob^t Serv^t
(Signed) Rich^d D. Spaight

John Burgwyn
Thomas S. Singleton Esquires
Edward Graham

The original handed to Edward Graham Esq^r Saturday evening April 28th 1827—by Nat. Smith¹⁰

¹⁰In subsequent letters this individual is referred to as Nathaniel Smith, but the 1820 census of Craven County does not list such a man. However, it does list two Nathan Smiths, one the head of a household of ten, and the other the owner of "a number of slaves." This reference is probably to one of them. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Craven County, 9, 25.

The sensitive honor of Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr. (1796-1850), was ironic or perhaps prophetic. His father, Richard Dobbs Spaight, Sr., was killed in a duel with John Stanly in 1802. Photograph from the files of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.



Addressed: John Burgwin
Tho^s S. Singleton &
Edward Graham Esquires

Nathaniel Smith to Isaac W. Hughes
(Copy)

[April 30, 1827]

Sir

Your contemptible & scurrilous communication of to day I return to you as the language it contains can apply only to yourself, but as it also seems to imply a complaint of your labouring under injury from me I take this opportunity to urge upon you all that you have heard derogatory to you, and that if you should perchance have spirit sufficient to demand, in a proper manner, the satisfaction of a gentleman, I shall be happy to accommodate you—

Your Ob^t Serv^t
Nat. Smith

April 30th 1827

Doctor Isaac W Hughes

I certify the above to be a true copy of a letter addressed by Nathaniel Smith Esq^r of Newbern, to D^r Isaac W Hughes of the same place, and delivered to D^r Hughes on the first day of May A D 1827 by me. It contained the communication referred to

Richd D Spaight

Addressed: Dr Isaac W Hughes

Isaac W. Hughes to Nathaniel Smith

[May 1, 1827]

Sir

Your infamous note, which is truly characteristic of the notorious infamy of your character has been just received and I hasten to answer its contents. After facts as obvious as noonday have occurred and which substantiate the assertion which I have made relative to the conversation which ensued between you and D^r T. L. Carthy, during which conversation your recreant spirit crouched beneath the bold & manly defiance which that gentleman repeatedly cast in your teeth. I would have you Sir to understand that I do not consider myself the aggrieved party and am under the impression that had your views and ideas of the matter corresponded with those of gentlemen, you would have wiped off the foul aspersion, without resorting to a pitiful reply. As your nasty production evinces a reluctance to resort to that honourable manner known among gentlemen to adjust their differences, should this letter infuse into your recreant soul, spirit enough (2) for once to seek a reparation I now offer you an opportunity.

I am Sir your obedient servant

Isaac W Hughes

Mr Nathaniel Smith

Tuesday evening 1st May 1827

Addressed: Mr Nathaniel Smith

*Articles of Agreement between Richard D. Spaight
and Alexander Gaston*

[May 5, 1827]

Articles of agreement entered into by Richard D Spaight second to Nathaniel Smith and Alexander Gaston second to Isaac W Hughes for the purpose of deciding differences existing between those Gentlemen.

Article first. It is agreed that the contest shall be decided with ordinary duelling pistols, charged with a single ball, and at the distance of ten paces or twenty-five feet.

Article Second. It is agreed that the parties shall meet, for the above mentioned purpose, on the twelfth day of May A D 1827 between the hours of three and six in the afternoon, at Goodwin's house on or near the South and North Carolina line, on the road leading by Laurel Hill from Fayetteville to Cheraw, the contest to be decided on the South Carolina side of said line.

Article third. It is agreed that the pistols shall be loaded by the seconds of each party in the presence of the other, after arriving on the ground, and shall be presented to the principals, at a half cock, who shall hold them with their muzzles pointing directly or perpendicularly to the ground, untill the word "fire" is pronounced in a distinct tone of voice. (2)

Article fourth. It is agreed that the word of commanded shall be given by one of the seconds to be decided by lot.

Article fifth. It is agreed that the word of command shall be as follows, Viz, "Gentlemen make ready" by which words nothing more is to be understood than to be on their guard, and as soon the words are distinctly pronounced, he is to give the word "fire" in a clear and audible voice.

Article sixth. It is agreed that the principals shall not cock their pistols or place their thumbs on the cock untill after the word "fire" has been given.

Article seventh. It is agreed, that if either party shall cock his pistol, or place his thumb on the cock, or fire before the word "fire" is given, he shall subject himself to be shot by the friend of his opponent.

Article eight. It is agreed that a snap or flash shall be equal to a fire.

Article ninth. It is agreed that if either party shall fail to fire after the word "fire" and within the time in which, one, two, three, four, five stop! can be pronounced audibly and distinctly he shall forfeit his fire.

Article tenth. It is agreed, if either party shall fire after the word "stop" has been uttered, he shall subject himself to be shot by the friend of his opponent.

Article eleventh. It is agreed that the parties are not to quit the ground untill both are satisfied (3)

Article twelfth. It is agreed that if either party shall be wounded, so as to be unable to stand, and still be desirous of continuing the contest the other party shall take the same position and posture that the party wounded as aforesaid shall take, so as to produce an equality.

It is desirable that no person shall be on the ground except the parties, their seconds and surgeons.

Agreed to this fifth day of May A D 1827

Alex Gaston
Richd D Spaight

*Nathaniel Smith to Alexander Gaston*¹¹

NEWBERN May 6th 1827

Sir,

In consequence of information being lodged, from what source I know not; I find that the sheriff is looking for me, and am afraid I shall be arrested before I can get off. If I should be arrested, I cannot meet you according to expectation; but as a meeting must take place to settle the business between your friend and myself; I shall expect your friend to meet me in Washington City, district of Columbia, at Brown's hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue between the hours of twelve and six o'clock of the afternoon of Saturday the eleventh day of August 1827, and then and there enter into all the necessary arrangements to settle said business. If I shall not be arrested I shall have the pleasure of meeting you at our original place of appointment You will inform your friend of this so that he may make his arrangements to meet me.

Your Obt. serv^t
Nat. Smith

Alexander Gaston Esq^r

Addressed: Alexander Gaston Esq^r

¹¹Alexander F. Gaston, the only son of Judge William Gaston of the state supreme court, was a lawyer who represented Hyde County in the state legislature in 1830, participated in the North Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1835, and served as a major general of the state militia in 1841. He was first married to Eliza Jones, the daughter of Dr. Hugh Jones, and later married a "Miss Murphy" of Burke County, where he later resided until his death. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, VII, 114; Miller, *Recollections*, 49; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 139.

Arnaud Rambie to John Gray Blount

PLYMO May 13 1827

John G. Blount Esqr

Dear Sir

I write you by the first mail after the receipt of your letter of the 1st—

I have written to Boston for two vessels, one to take staves at Plymouth, the other at Washington, and both to go to Bordeaux. I expect to hear that these vessels are on their way, in a few days. I would therefore recommend, not that your staves be sent to the channel below, but that they be in readiness to send down upon the arrival of the vessel, which must be in a few days, if I be not disappointed—

On receiving staves from you at this time, I have to (2) say, that the cutting must be more rigidly adhered to, than it was when I received staves of you in 1826. For as to the staves rec^d of you in 1826, my cooper in France writes me that a great many were cutting—& that the cuttings & good staves mixed together, whereby I sustained a considerable loss—I beg you therefore to attend particularly to the quality of the staves, and to let me them of the quality named in the contract.

I am Yr ob Hlb ser
Arnaud Rambie

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqre
Washington N C.

Nathaniel Smith to Thomas L. Carthy
(Copy)

NEWBERN May 21st 1827

Sir

In consequence of a difference having arisen between Doctor Isaac W. Hughes and myself, respecting a conversation that took place between you and myself, in Fayetteville the first of April last, when I communicated to you the message from M^r Spaight, and said difference having assumed the complexion it has, I have to call on you, as a gentleman and a man of honour, to state what you recollect of that conversation; using

the very words that passed between us, as far as you are able. This appeal, may appear, to place you in a delicate, and disagreeable situation with respect to Doctor Hughes; but he ought to claim no more than strict justice, and that is also due to me. It is also an appeal of such a kind, that a gentleman cannot hesitate how to act, and evinces a confidence, that you entertain so high a sense of honour, that however disagreeable it may be to your feelings, you will nevertheless answer with candour this appeal made to your justice.

I am Sir respectfully

Your Ob^t Serv^t

(signed) Nat. Smith

Doctor Thomas L Carthy

Directed to Doctor Thomas L Carthy—Mobile Alabama

I certify that I put in the post office at Newbern, North Carolina, on the twenty third day of May A D 1827 a letter, of which the above is a true copy, addressed to Dr Thomas L Carthy, Mobile, Alabama.

Richd D Spaight

[No address]

James J. Sanford to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON ACADEMY¹² May 25th 1827

M^r John G. Blount

Sir

Having understood that you are about to withdraw your patronage from the Academy I have taken the liberty to address you for the pur-

¹²Washington Academy was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1808. Established in the town of Washington, it grew slowly. A "Mr. and Mrs. Sanford" taught there until 1827 when they were replaced by a "Mr. Weatherly, a Presbyterian minister. . . ." Edgar W. Knight, *Public Education in the South* (Boston: Ginn and Co., 1922), 96-97; Charles L. Coon, *North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Co., 1915), 330; Loy and Worthy, *Washington and the Pamlico*, 498.

pose of informing you that I am grateful for the very liberal support you have given the Institution since it has been under my charge and should be pleased to have you continue it provided you could do so consistently. I certainly regret to lose William very much—I have become very much attached to him from his respectful behaviour, his manly deportment, and his rapid progress in his studies. I have never been under the painful necessity of inflicting the least punishment upon him for improper conduct—And I presume that any candid person who was acquainted with his attainments when he first commenced with me and is acquainted with them now, will say that he has made rapid progress in his Classical studies. When he first came to me he knew nothing about scanning Latin and could translate but indifferently—He now scans correctly and translates fluently. I could qualify him for admission into any College in the United States in 18 months, and If I did not, I would refund his money—He is a youth of very fine talents and is an ornament to the Academy. I presume that you intend to give him a College education, as he certainly possesses talents worthy and susceptible of the highest Cultivation—And I do much *regret* to *part* with him.

I am
Dear Sir
Yours very respectfully
James J. Sanford

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq.
Washington

Isaac W. Hughes to Richard D. Spaight

NEW BERN May 31st 1827

Dear Sir

Learning from Mr J. Bettner¹³ two days ago, that he had a letter from Dr Carthy in which he made some allusions to Mr Smith, I requested

¹³James E. Bettner started out as a clerk for merchant Stephen Forbes of New Bern. He later became Forbes's partner. Miller, *Recollections*, 4.

him to let me read it, and as you would probably be anxious to see it, I will send you a copy of that part which alludes to Mr. S. This is a letter written from Augusta and received six weeks ago.

Respectfully your's &c
I. W. Hughes

Richard D. Spaight Esq^r

I preserved the equanimity of my temper, throughout the whole transaction, until the afternoon of the day of our return to Fayetteville, when Mr Smith called on me, to request, that I would confer without the privacy of Hughes, previously to my signing the peace bonds. I do not know when I suffered so much from suppressed passion. I had given my word that I would not directly or indirectly do any thing to render the securities liable &c. My first impulse was to Knock him down & trample his vile carcase in the dust, but I restrained myself, & told him how perfectly I was at the disposal of his friend, and also how happy I should be to accommodate *him* Mr Nathaniel Smith in the same way.

N. B. It may be necessary for me to explain how I heard what passed, I was sitting as near the (2) door as possible. Dr C & Mr S. went only outside, so as I was sitting near when Mr S. came in, I seated myself in the same place, & overheard what conversation passed between them. I did not Know whether you would wish to see this or not, but supposing it would not be entirely uninteresting, I have ventured to send you the above statement.

Your respectfully,
IWH

Addressed: Richard D. Spaight Esqr

*Richard D. Spaight to Thomas W. Blackledge*¹⁴

June 10th 1827

Dear Thomas

I leave a letter with this, to be given you, when you arrive. I go to see the old Solicitor (Miller) and take this means of communicating with

¹⁴For Thomas W. Blackledge see 1814, n. 2. This letter included as enclosures Isaac W. Hughes's letter of May 31, 1827, to R. D. Spaight (see above) and the letter that follows this one.

you. I have delayed a day for the purpose of seeing you. Enclosed in my letter to D^r Hughes, is, a letter written by the Doctor to me. I need say nothing of its purport as the letter is open and I wish you to read it. I have thought the relation in which I stand to Smith makes it improper for me to retain it. I have been much puzzled as to what I ought to do and in fact the opinion I have expressed is not a very decided one. The letter is respectful as you will perceive and could not be intended as offensive. If you should concur with me in the impropriety of keeping the letter you will please deliver mine to Dr Hughes and return him his own and take a copy of mine and his before you (2) give them to him. If you think it proper I wish you to ascertain from D^r Hughes what D^r Carthy means, when he says "how perfectly I was at the disposal of his friend" (meaning myself). If he means *then* at my disposal or after the *obligation* of *his bond terminated*. I understood the latter. I do not wish any impression to be made (because it would be false, and derogatory to me) that I had not tried to bring the matter to a termination as speedily as it could be effected. I had promised Miller I would at this time go to see him, which prevents me from waiting for you.

Your friend
Richd D Spaight

Thomas W Blackledge Esqr

Addressed: Thomas W Blackledge Esqr

Richard D. Spaight to Isaac W. Hughes [copy]

June 10th 1827

Sir

The respectful manner of your letter, forbids me from considering it offensive in its character, but the relation in which I stand to Mr Nathaniel Smith, in my opinion, renders it improper for me to retain it. I therefore return it herewith. I should have done so sooner if my friend Mr Thomas W Blackledge, whom I daily expected, had arrived earlier

Yours &c
Rich^d D. Spaight

Doc^{tr} Isaac W. Hughes

Addressed: Docto^r Isaac W. Hughes

*John Devereux DeLacy to John Gray Blount*NEW ORLEANS June the 21st 1827John G. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

I have been here this 13 days (the most expensive and unhealthy place a man ever set foot in at this season of the year) hunting through offices papers and records untill I am sick of them and it, for never was such scenes of strange management disclosed as in the shameful manner the Judgm^{ts} in favor of Lohra were attempted to be got rid of but I shall get them restored in spite of the Defend^{ts} as to the Balance due by Morh^e in my name it will require management to get it owing to the conduct of Griffith since the death of Morh^e as the trustee for his heir, which does not discharge the debt due here as it never entered into possession of the fathers estate to enable him to convey it, which is absolutely necessary here by a state law—You must get your Brother or some friend to administer here to Morh^e as I can only be a witness, (I begin to think) in order to secure[?] the whole debt &c. please to let me hear from you at Nashville directed to the care of your Brother. and inform M^r Tho. Blount that his friend and my old acquaintance Gen^l Robinson never Received his letter—I am very Respectfully and sincerely Dear Sir Your Most Obed^t

John Dev^x DeLacy

(2) P.S. I shall set out for the onachetta [?] this day to reexamine the offices there and to get certified copies of the Records and proceedings important in the cases under consideration J.D.D.

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
 Washington
 Beaufort County
 North Carolina

*Isaac W. Hughes to Richard D. Spaight*June 24th 1827

Sir

Your formal and somewhat ambiguous Note handed me by Mr T. W. Blackledge last evening, if I am not mistaken (in its tenor) appears to at-

tribute an undue liberality and forbearance to the act of *not* regarding my Note of 31st of May Ult. as "offensive in its character."

It would be superfluous to do more than allude to the fact, that it was your own request, that I should impart to you such corroborative evidence as I might obtain in relation to the affair between Mr N. Smith & myself—And that the object of that Note was not only without the idea of conveying offence, but also without asking any forbearance or liberality at your hands in its behalf. I would now be permitted to assure you, that I should be much better satisfied to meet the demonstration of your feelings towards me, than you should claim the voluntary exercise of any such forbearance—

Your Obedient Servant
I W Hughes

Richard D Spaight Esq^r

N. B. My friend M^r J. E. Bettner will hand you this on your return to Newbern

Addressed: Richard D Spaight Esq

Richard D. Spaight to Isaac W. Hughes [copy]

June 28th 1827

Sir,

Your letter of the 24th inst^t was handed me this morning by Mr Bettner; & should have been answered earlier, but both myself & friend Mr Thomas W Blackledge, have been prevented by company, from giving it our immediate attention. If there be any ambiguity in my letter, it was entirely unintentional; but I intended it to be, & thought it was, as candid and explicit as language could express. Had I conceived an affront, intended to be offered to me, neither my liberality, nor my forbearance, would have prevented me from resenting it—

You certainly labour under a misapprehension, when you state, I desired evidence, corroborative, of your charge concerning Mr Smith. I understand my duties (2) character, and situation too well, to have made such a request. As evidence of your misapprehension, I take the liberty of making two extracts from your letter, to me dated May 31st 1827, & which my friend Mr Thomas W Blackledge, returned to you on the evening of June 23rd 1827. They are as follows viz, "Learning from Mr J D Bettner two days ago, that he had a letter from D^r Carthy in which he

made some allusions to Mr Smith, I requested him to let me read it; and as you would probably be anxious to see it, I will send you a copy of that part &c." Again in the N.B. of your letter you say "I did not know whether you would wish to see this or not, but supposing it would not be entirely uninteresting, I have ventured to send you the above statement.

The import of the latter clause of your letter embraced in the following words viz, "I would not be permitted to assure you, that I should (3) be much better satisfied, to meet the demonstration, of your feelings towards me, than you should claim the voluntary exercise of any such forbearance," I am unable to understand: and I have therefore to desire you to give a less ambiguous expression to your meaning. Then I shall have no hesitation, in giving it a prompt reply.

Your obedient servant
Richd D. Spaight

Doct^r Isaac W. Hughes

Addressed: Doctor Isaac W. Hughes

Isaac W. Hughes to Richard D. Spaight

June 29th 1827

Sir

At the time the last conversation passed between you & myself in relation to Mr Smith &c. I parted with you under the impression that you wished me to inform you when I received an answer from D^r Carthy, & to communicate his statement touching the question pending between Mr Smith & myself—Upon M^r Bettner's return from the North a few days after, I learned from him, that he had in his possession a letter from D^r Carthy which contained confirmation of the point I wished to establish—and as this letter superseded the reply (I should otherwise have awaited) from D^r Carthy—I was therefore induced to make use of it & to send you the passage contained in my letter of 31st May—acting under these circumstances, the passages from that letter which you have thought proper to repeat, were written in relation to this unexpected evidence, and in as much as it was a private letter (which before I knew not the existence of) I made use of very different language from that which the communication of D^r Carthy's answer intended to be made public, would require—In explaining the passage of my letter of 24th inst. which you (2) think ambiguous, I may be permitted to include my answer to the

gratuitous information you have been pleased to give me in the conclusion of the 1st sentence of your letter yesterday, Namely: "Had I conceived an affront intended to be offered to me, neither my liberality nor my forbearance would have prevented me from resenting it"—

In regard to the first, I intended you to understand I did not "forbid" in my note of 31st May that you should act as might be most congenial with your own feelings; and for the latter, I have no inclination to solicit any thing from your liberality, nor to avoid your resentment.

Your Obedient servant
Isaac W Hughes

Richard D Spaight Esq

Addressed: Richard D Spaight Esq

Richard D. Spaight to Isaac W. Hughes [copy]

June 29th 1827

Sir

Your letter of this ins^t was handed me, this morning by Mr Bettner, & is accepted as satisfactory. I owe it to *myself* to state, I did not intend to intimate that you had exhibited any "inclination either to solicit any thing from my liberality or to avoid my resentment" Had I intended to have done so, I would have written so as not to be misunderstood.

Your ob^t Serv^t
Rich^d D. Spaight

Doct^r Isaac W Hughes

Addressed: Doctor Isaac W. Hughes

Willie Blount to John Gray Blount

June 1827

Dear Sir,

Last year I informed you that Doctor Wiatt & W. G. Blount moved to Paris Henry County Western District & that in a few days after getting

there Doctor Wiatt died. Since which Eliza and family of children have gone to reside with her sister Barbara at Cincinnati Ohio Genl. Gaines's present head quarters where she writes she is comfortably accommodated—R. B. Blount¹⁵ was yesterday with me just from Paris where W. G. Blount had taken his residence and informs me that on the 20th of May after a few days illness W. G. Blount died—He has never had an hours' health since he left Knoxville—He left a will, to which, he has appointed R. B. Blount sole Executor who has qualified what disposition he made of his property I did not inquire of Rich^d—As Wm was an Exe^r of our deceased brother Toms will is not Rich^d now also his Exe^r?

Three or four weeks past I wrote you and committed the letter to the care of M^r DeLacy to be put in post office at Nashville which I hope you have rec^d ere this—have neither seen nor heard from M^r DeLacy since, nor do I know whether he has started to the lower Country or not—

We are well here and to you and yours we tender our affectionate Salutations and am

your affectionate brother
Willie Blount

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
Beaufort County
North Carolina

Nathaniel Smith to Isaac W. Hughes
(Copy)

July 2nd 1827

Sir

I must express some surpris at your declining to meet me at the time I have appointed, and more surprise at your pretending to ground any part of that refusal on my not having gone to the South, after the arrest; when you are fully aware that it would have been totally impracticable to have got there; as the country was universally alarmed, in consequence of the affair having got out, certainly without any fault, blunder, or indiscretion on my part or on the part of any of my friends. I believe it

¹⁵For Richard B. Blount see 1807, n. 30.

is acknowledged, in all civilized countries, to be the right, and privilege of the party, of whom satisfaction is demanded, to appoint time, place &c for a meeting, and no intervention of a third party can take, or do away that right, and privilege; and, inasmuch as a former meeting between us was prevented by the intervention of the civil authority, I still feel disposed to exercise, and insist upon, my right to appoint time &c for an other meeting. I understand that you also object to the time appointed, as being inconvenient to you, on account of the sickly season; but I dont think such an objection can, or ought to avail you to evade a meeting; for when one party demands satisfaction of an other, he runs the risk of being put to some inconvenience; and I believe there is not generally, much sickness here before August. I have many reasons for wishing the affair disposed of, and must therefore insist upon the time I have already specified.

Your Obedient Serv^t
(signed) Nat. Smith

Doctor Isaac W Hughes

Addressed: Doctor Isaac W Hughes

Isaac W. Hughes to Nathaniel Smith

July 3rd 1827

Sir

Your Note of 2nd Inst. was handed me last evening by M^r R. D. Spaight. I am at present but too well acquainted with M^r Nathaniel Smith either to have been surprised by his presumption in sending such a Note, or to suffer myself to be drawn into a discussion of its merits.

Would it not have been more honest in you, to have reverted to the original grounds of the dispute? to have alluded at least, to the point at which it has arrived, and where you are left, too degraded for notice, and for this as for many other of your misdeeds, unworthy of any attention!

I will not at present condescend to say any thing of your ungenerous conduct (to give it the mildest appellation) in regard to the journey I took in persuance to our arrangement: but will only assure you unequivocally of my confirmed mistrust of you, and should I now accede to your proposal of repairing to Washington City, that some subterfuge would be resorted to by you to prevent a final decision of the affair; you

must therefore consent to meet me at the time I have already intimated to your friend Mr Spaight, when I shall be more at leisure to attend you.

(2) I shall start to the North this Fall or early next winter, the precise time I will hereafter give you notice of, & then shall insist (as I conceive I am at liberty to do) upon your meeting me, at such place as may be agreed upon

Your Obedient Servant
Isaac W Hughes

Mr Nathaniel Smith

Addressed: Mr Nathaniel Smith
Present

Richard B. Blount to John Gray Blount, Jr.

CLARKSVILLE
October 5th 1827

I am writing at the desk in office where I rec^d yours of 25th August say ten minutes since

I concur with you in opinion as to the importance of a speedy settlement of this long winded & much neglected business—I a few days since rec^d a letter from Gaines on the Subject of which I apprized your father in a letter written at Nashville a few days ago. in which stated the course I had taken with M^r Caruthers &c I am not prepared to say any thing conclusive on the business, until after a meeting with Gaines, which is calculated on in the course of two months at farthest—As relates to the church claim I do not view my power as Ex^r of an Ex^r as having any thing to do with the paym^{nt} of the [illegible] Laters debts &c &c in as-much as I conceive an Ex^r can not alianate a trust confided to him. M^r Miller¹⁶ will probably be the person to settle that business—I^v promised your father that he shall hear either from Gaine's or myself directly after the meeting

your obd^t
R B Blount

¹⁶For Pleasant Miller see 1803, n. 26.

(2) P. S.

Will you be good enough to cause to be sent me (or ask your brother Tho^s to do so) a copy of the ans^r of Ex^{rs} of Thomas Blount to the Bill of M^{rs} Blount which can be procured at Raughley. I should like to have this before the contemplated meeting of Gaines & myself as it will aid us in speedily coming to a conclusion as to the cours proper to be persued by us

RBB

Addressed: John G. Blount J^r
Tarboro N^o Carolina

*Thomas S. Singleton, John Burgwyn, and Edward Graham
to Richard D. Spaight*

NEW BERN Oct^r 16th 1827

Dear Sir,

From our knowledge of the circumstances, relating to the difference between Doctor Carthy & yourself, we feel assured that, a satisfactory explination will be given, provided you will withdraw your challenge.

very respectfully
Your ob^t servants &c
Tho^s S. Singleton
J Burgwyn
Edward Graham

Addressed: Richard D. Spaight Esq.

William Gaston¹⁷ and Others to John Gray Blount

NEWBERN Novem^r 7th 1827

Sir

The undersigned have been appointed by the Citizens of this place a Committee to correspond and confer with the Citizens of other towns

¹⁷For William Gaston see 1812, n. 56.

whose communication with the Ocean is by Ocracoke Inlet as to the most efficient mode of deepening the Swash, that great impediment to their commercial prosperity.¹⁸ They inclose to you a copy of the resolutions under which they have been appointed and request that you will take the earliest opportunity of calling the attention of your townsmen and of the inhabitants of the neighbouring towns to this very important subject. To prevent delay they suggest the expediency of having a Committee appointed on the part of the Citizens of each place directly interested in this undertaking, and of each Committee delegating two or more of its members to (2) attend a convention at Washington as a central place of meeting on the 25th day of this month with a view to the free interchange of opinions and to the forming of some practicable and united plan of operations—

Very respectfully
Y^r Ob^t Servants
Wm. Gaston
J Burgwyn
Jn^o Snead¹⁹
Moses Jarvis²⁰
Silvester Brown
H. B. Croom²¹

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq
Washington N. C.

¹⁸In 1819 Hamilton Fulton described conditions of navigation around Ocracoke Inlet as follows: "The Navigation off the coast of Ocracoke is dangerous; the channel across the Bar is variable and difficult; within the Bar lies the Swash, over which there are only eight feet of water, and within the Swash there is no harbour, nor good anchorage-ground. . . . This current meeting the current of the tide, forms an eddy within the Bar, in which a deposit is made which forms the Swash. The Inlet has widened very much within the last fifty years, and the depth of water across the Bar has lessened. It is said, that at present this depth does not exceed fourteen feet. Vessels drawing more than eight feet water, have to lighter in crossing the Swash; and this circumstance . . . renders the Navigation through this Inlet not only inconvenient, but often extremely dangerous" (Hoyt, *Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*, II, 125-126).

¹⁹John Snead operated a store across the street from the Bank of New Bern. He is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of seven. Miller, *Recollections*, 8; Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Craven County, 31.

²⁰Moses Jarvis owned the shipping firm of Moses Jarvis and Company. He too is listed in the 1820 census for Craven County as the head of a household of seven. Miller, *Recollections*, 10; Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Craven County, 28.

²¹Hardy B. Croom (1798-1837), the son of General William Croom of Lenoir, was a graduate of the University of North Carolina and a noted botanist and scholar. He had read law with William Gaston in New Bern, married a daughter of Nathan Smith of New Bern, and represented Lenoir County in the state Senate in 1828. Croom and his family perished at sea when their ship wrecked off the North Carolina coast during a voyage from New York. Miller, *Recollections*, 50; Ashe, *History of North Carolina*, II, 401; Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 223.

*William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount*RALEIGH Nov^r 23 1827

on getting to this place I waited on Henry Haywood²² Cash^r of the State Bank—handed him your note & the \$54 Sent—He States the money Sent is a trifle over the amount necessary, the overplus will be placed to your credit & the Note Sent will & has been recieved—There is here from Buncomb County a man by the name of Allen²³ a member of the Commons—introduced to me by a letter from M^r R. Love—He represents him a man of warm regards and bitter Hostilities—a man that may be highly unfit or Seriously injurious as his feelings may point him—I find him a man of powerful natural Sense without Education—He tells me he has purchased of Love a Strip of Land about 100 Rods wide & Several miles in length thro your Lands—that he has there made a road²⁴ which bids fair to be a fortune to himself & has & will greatly enhance the value of your Lands—So Says Love—He says your Lands ought to Sell for 20.000\$ & he has no doubt with good management they will do So—He speaks of an inexhaustable mountain of Iron & about it every thing necessary to work it to advantage—His Lays within 3 miles of the road he has made & which is now & will continue to be mostly travelled—He thinks this mountain & surrounding Lands worth a great deale of money—

Swain²⁵ says with good management your Lands in that Country are worth a great deale of money—from the conversation of both these men & they are bitter enemies, (2) I infer they think Love Honest but negligent & that he might do better if he would—

²²William Henry Haywood (1770-1857) was a banker, planter, and clerk of the United States District Court for North Carolina. His son, William H. Haywood, Jr., later became a prominent politician at both the state and national level, serving a short time in the United States Senate. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, VI, 296-303; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, lxiii-lxiv.

²³James Allen represented Buncombe County in the General Assembly, serving in the lower house in 1827 and in the senate in 1829, 1831, and 1832. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 289, 292, 296, 298.

²⁴The reference here is possibly to the Buncombe turnpike, which was organized in February, 1826. The first tollgate was erected in October, 1827. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 53.

²⁵David L. Swain (1801-1868) of Buncombe County was a lawyer who served in the state legislature (1824-1826, 1828, 1829). During 1827 he was the solicitor of the Edenton district. In 1830 Swain worked on the board of internal improvements and was elected a judge of the superior court. He held that post until 1832 when he was elected governor of North Carolina. He assumed the presidency of the University of North Carolina in 1835. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 53; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 57; Ashe, *History of North Carolina*, II, 374.

Swain Passes much information about your possessions there—He is flattered with the attention he has received & the favours that have been done him; & I Sayed to him that any information He might at any time give you about them would be thankfully received—

M^r Love in a Letter bids me to Say to you that next Fall he expects to bring you 8 or 10 Horses—

I wish you would tell my overseer I want to Know How many Hogs He has got up—How much corn we have made & about every thing—

Should be glad to Know what is talked about in the County—what projects afloat &c &c

My love to my children & the Family
Will A Blount

I have Seen the Report of Nash about Swamp Lands. I think it a good one. He calls the attention of the Legislature most directly to the Mattamuskeet Country—The Board I am told respond to this & are disposed to urge a begining there—as Soon as their reports are presented I will forward you a copy & shall be glad directly to hear from you upon the Subject—I am having what office every man wants & what Hobby each member of influence intends to ride. this Knowledge when possessed by me may possibly enable me to get Some of theirs a Straddle of mine from appearances I hope for Success, but as yet business is not much talked of

W.A.B.

(3) Major Owen²⁶ from Bladen is here a member from Bladen County He authorizes me to Say to you that my Brother has asked him to act as your agent in His county & that he is willing to do So. He is inclined to believe that your Lands have been & are now often pillaged of the Timber & thinks this will continue to be the case unless Steps is taken to Stop it—Since Steam mills are common about Wilmington he believes Timber has been cut to Supply them—perhaps you had best write to him upon the Subject.

W.A.B.

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount
Washington
N C^a

²⁶For John Owen see 1813, n. 2.

*Thomas S. Singleton to Richard D. Spaight*NEW BERN NOV^r 26th 1827

My Dear Sir,

Enclosed is the note signed by M^r Graham, M^r Burgwyn & myself for the purpose of producing a settlement of the difference between Doctor Carthy & yourself.

I think the best plan will be for you to write to us three, authorising us to withdraw the challenge and then for the Doctor, to authorise us to make the necessary explanation; we are desirous of having an answer as soon as possible, so as to bring the matter to a close.

We have had splendid Jackson meeting;²⁷ it is said by the Jacksonians who, were present at the Administration meeting, to be more numerous than any they ever attended in this place; there were very few Countrymen at it; Judge Donnell will be able to give you a full account of it, as he acted as our Chairman. Let me hear from you all the news.

Your's respectfully &c.
Tho^s S. Singleton

Addressed: Richard D. Spaight Esq.
Raleigh
N.C.

*Nathaniel Smith to Thomas L. Carthy*MANCHAC DEC. 5th 1827

Sir,

The language contained in your letters, to M^r James E. Bettner, & to Doctor Isaac W. Hughes in relation to me, is such as no one gentleman can apply to another without subjecting himself to be called upon for an

²⁷ The reference here is no doubt to a meeting called in New Bern on November 24, 1827, by Jackson partisans. At this meeting a committee of correspondence was created and instructed to cooperate with others in forming an electoral ticket to promote Andrew Jackson's candidacy for president in 1828. William S. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, James Sprunt Studies in History and Political Science, Volume XL (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1958), 19, hereinafter cited as Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*.

explanation and apology—I now make this call upon you—Should you not feel disposed to make the necessary explanation, and apology, you are to regard this as an invitation to a meeting. My friend M^r B. F. Blackledge is authorised to make all necessary arrangements.

Your Ob^t Serv^t
Signed Nat. Smith

To Doctor Thomas L. Carthy

[No address]

Thomas L. Carthy to Nathaniel Smith

MANCHAC DEC. 5th 1827

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of this date, by the hands of your friend B. F. Blackledge Esq^r and I hasten to say that my letters to M^r Bettner & Doctor Hughes of which you complain, were dictated by a conviction of their justice in reference to yourself and am now confirmed by a mature consideration—I shall be in Baton Rouge on friday the 7th Inst., when my friend will hand to M^r Blackledge the terms of the “explanation” you require. I am Sir

Your most ob^t Ser^t
Signed Tho^s L. Carthy

To M^r Nathaniel Smith

[No address]

Benjamin F. Blackledge to Josiah Barker

BATON ROUGE DEC. 7th 1827

Sir,

I as the friend of M^r Smith object to his meeting your friend near this place, because I think the danger to be apprehended from the Civil Authorities is too great, and not equal to both parties.

Your Ob^t Ser^t
Signed B. F. Blackledge

To M^r J. Barker
[No address]

Josiah Barker to Benjamin F. Blackledge

BATON ROUGE Dec. 7th 1827

Dear Sir,

I have communicated to my friend Doctor Carthy your note of this date conveying the "ultimatum" of M^r Smith; and am instructed to say in reply, that hence forward, Doctor Carthy can recognise no claim from M^r Smith—

I am dear Sir
with great respect
Your Most Ob^t Ser^t
Signed Josiah Barker

To B. F. Blackledge Esq^r
[No address]

Benjamin F. Blackledge to Josiah Barker

BATON ROUGE Dec. 7th 1827

Dear Sir,

I am instructed to say by my friend M^r Smith in answer to your note of this date that, although he considers it very ungenerous in Doctor Carthy to insist upon a meeting in the vicinity of Baton Rouge after the reasons assigned against it had been made known to the Doctor himself—Yet rather than be disappointed he is willing to, and does waive the objection. The sooner we can meet to finish the arrangements the better—

Your Ob^t Serv^t
Signed B. F. Blackledge

To M^r J. Barker

[No address]

Josiah Barker to Benjamin F. Blackledge

BATON ROUGE Friday evening Dec. 7th 1827

Dear Sir,

In returning to you the assurance of my sincere respect for you personally, I am compelled to say, that I concur in the determination of my friend Doctor Carthy not to renew a negotiation with M^r Smith which has already been brought to a close by him—At my first interview with M^r Smith on the evening of the 5th inst., I delivered to him Doctor Carthy's acceptance of his challenge appointing *this day* & place, for the arrangement of the terms of combat—At the earnest request of M^r Smith I conveyed to Doctor Carthy a verbal invitation to be here on the 6th with an assurance that he, M^r Smith, would certainly be here on that day in consequence of which Doctor Carthy left home at sunrise on the following morning and M^r Smith arrived here at 11 o'clock the day after—Within an hour after his arrival, a cartel was transmitted to him, with an appointment for its ratification at "breakfast time tomorrow morning" Shortly after I had the honor to receive a visit from you on the part of M^r Smith, inviting me to hasten the issue, in compliance with which I called upon you this afternoon at your lodgings, to provide for a meeting *instantly*—when referring to M^r Smith for his "Ultimatum" you declared to me, after repeated consultations with him, a determination *not* to meet Doctor Carthy here—The call was made here; was promptly accepted by Doctor Carthy and subsequently declined by M^r Smith Upon these premises Doctor Carthy desires me to say, that he will not receive any further communication from M^r Smith.

In haste
dear Sir
Your ob^t ser^t
Signed J. Barker

To B. F. Blackledge Esq^r

[No address]

*Richard D. Spaight to Thomas S. Singleton, John Burgwyn,
and Edward Graham*

Raleigh December 14th 1827

Gentlemen

Your letter of the 16th of October last came to hand on the third of this month. After mature deliberation, upon the assurance you have given, I think it my duty as a man of honour to say, believing you stand impartially affected between us, that I authorise you to withdraw my note to D^r Carthy to enable him to make a satisfactory explanation.

Respectfully
Your Ob^t Serv^t
[Richard D. Spaight]

Thomas S. Singleton, John Burgwyn
and Edward Graham Esquires

(Copy)

[No address]

William Augustus Blount to John Gray Blount

RALEIGH Dec^r 15^t 1827

Yesterday M^r Gaston & myself met by his invitation & discussed the Swash Subject—I understood that we agreed to create Stock to the Amount of \$100,000—order a Survey & examination by our own Engineer & if upon examination & Survey that the Board for internal Imp 5 should think it expedient they are to have power to expend the money or any part of it to effect the object—This is my own Suggestion & Gaston acquiesced—But Sir however much we desire the work done, however important it may be & though no doubts should exist of its practicality yet the deficit in the Treasury in my opinion will prevent any thing being done at this Session—I am content if the Legislature is not made to [contrive?] the U.S. Constitution [differently?] to what has heretofore been done—the less Said about this perhaps the better—a committee of 13 persons will have this Subject under consideration but I forsee it will end in Smoke—

a few days Since The committee on Internal imp. 5 of both Houses met together to take into consideration & discuss the Policy of the State

improving Swamps at this time—In this business I had to take the Lead and the discussion resulted in a decision 24 to 1 that we ought. The Committee have embraced my views entirely & agreed to report a Bill locating the Canal one end at the West Bluff Bay & appropriating \$16,000 to do the Work—The deficit in the Treasury may defeat me, but that alone can & I am almost Confident will—

Blackledges Sheriffs Bill²⁸ engrosses every bodys attention & delays business tho it had been previously rejected in the Senate. Its a popular bill or rather a Popularity [illegible] bill—

No man can be had in Pitt Suitable for an election that any of us know of—I will not serve—Let the *People* in their primitive colleges designate one—

The Boy is waiting I fear I have not even given you an idea of the matters treated of for want of time

Yours &c
W A Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Es^r
Washington

p^r Boy

John Gray Blount to William Augustus Blount

WASHINGTON Dec^r 16^t 1827

D^r William

Yours to Olivia of the 7^t Instant come to hand at sunset this evening and from that I have infer'd that you have received no Letter from me & as the mail closes at 8 o'clock I have no time to be particular on any Subject not even as much so as in my last Letter respecting the Canal from the Lake to the west Bluff Bay in which I say'd I own'd the Land on one side I own it on one side 5 miles the distance will be six so that I should give 800 acres on the Canal & Smallwood writes me the Company will do the same which will make 1600 Acres of as good Land Green Carrowan says as is on my mill Race It will leave the Lake at a suitable place

²⁸The "Sheriff's Bill," which passed in the 1828-1829 session of the General Assembly, signaled a victory for the Jacksonians who stood for greater popular participation in electing officials. This controversial bill allowed the voters in each county to elect the sheriff. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 94.

& enter the Sound in the best Harbour on Pamlico Sound but how much Land will be laid dry by draining 3 or 4 feet I cannot say but the Company of which Col^o Roberts was one; thought their entry worth a great deal when the Lake was only about two feet below common water. I cannot say how fit for cultivation the Land thus drained within the Lake would be, as in most places it has a thin cover of Sand & I never examined with a view to cultivation M^r Nash viewed it & made up his mind as to the quantity & quality to which may be added the information acquired by M^r Green Hill & C^o as to quantity & quality As to myself I would prefer (2) the draining the Lake only two feet; but for the Country at large have no doubt Mr Nashes plan would be most advantageous But from the present unaccountable state of the Treasury cannot suppose any thing will be done at this Session & therefore say less on the Subject than otherwise I should

I understand that our Candidates for the Clerks office are busy in getting up recommendations for Justices that you will have before you the names of enough to fill a Cowpen instead of a Court Bench & in some instances there would be two in a House & in many two or three within a mile of each other & very few where wanted & suitable ones so that it certainly will be best to have none and after the Clerk is elected none will be thought necessary We have had a Jackson meeting yesterday well attended upwards of 100 men mostly from the Country & I find Jackson will be strong & a little exertion will make them almost unanimous M^r Kennedy²⁹ gave a two Hours talk & display'd much information relative to the principals and view of the Adams's & the northern Federalists generally We want nothing to secure to Jackson all the votes of this State but some certain way of concentrating the votes of his Friends on the same Electors Cannot the members in the Assembly friendly to Gen^l Jackson pitch on some fine man at Raleigh friendly to him to whom each District shall write & inform who they will prefer to run for the District & let them write & inform all the Districts who shall be so [selected?] by each District All are well thats home John will inform you Olivia is at Tarb^o

yours
JG Blount

Addressed: Gen^l William A. Blount
Raleigh

²⁹For William Kennedy see 1803, n. 65.

*Joseph B. Hinton to Thomas W. Blackledge, William
Augustus Blount, and James O. K. Williams*

Dec^r 17th. 1827

Gentlemen

Enclosed is a paper, which was handed to me, some days since, to forward to you.

I am requested to state a fact, which is, it seems, giving much discontent in Tranters Creek District for your information. Before Gen^l Williams,³⁰ left home, Col^o Latham³¹ said to him, that *he* wished one or two assistants in the Commission of the Peace, made at the then ensuing Session of the Assembly—and said that he would be content to have Allen Grist³² and James Hodges³³ appointed. Subsequently, he, Latham, mentioned the same thing to me, and expressed a wish that steps should be taken, to have them appointed. A Petition was drawn up accordingly, which I am told would have obtained 2/3 of the District, to it, if it had been presented to them. Latham was waited on, as it was a proposal of his own, for his name *first*—He replied that the members at Ral[eigh] knew that one or two Magistrates was needed in that Dist. and that if they had not independence enough to make the proper appointments, without a Petition, he'd be damned if he (2) would sign a pettⁿ to please them. M^r Grist felt some delicacy as his name was mentioned in the Pettⁿ and would not permit the pettⁿ to be presented to any one else. It has since turned out that Col^o Latham had, at that very moment, a Pettⁿ in his pocket, which he had got Math: Shaw to draw up, to make Edwin Gorham and Jas Latham Jur.³⁴ the majestates, *he wished*, in *reality*—and he said at the time of presenting his pettⁿ to several, that his only object was to prevent Gorhams & Lathams being compelled to muster under Hanse Hardison! a very solid reason, truly. I am informed by a very in-

³⁰This might refer to James O. K. Williams, the state senator from Beaufort County in 1827, or to Joseph J. Williams, the senator from Martin County. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 288, 289.

³¹This might refer to David Latham, a representative from Martin County, or to Thomas Latham, a representative of Beaufort County. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 267, 271, 273, 286, 288, 291, 298, 300.

³²For Allen Grist see 1814, n. 28.

³³This might refer to James E. Hodges, who resided in Greene County. It might also refer to a Joseph Hodges of Cumberland County, however, who was in the General Assembly in 1827. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 287, 289, 291; *Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century* (1892; reprint ed., Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 2 volumes, 1973), II, 262.

³⁴James Latham and James Latham III are listed in the 1820 census for Beaufort County as the heads of households. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 26.

telligent Gentleman, that it was thought by the freemen of the Dist. that M^r Gorham, who had only been in the Dist. about a year, was too recent in the C^o to have claims to be a ruler over the people—and that Jas Latham Jur. had neither knowledge, age, or steadiness on his side, to justify such an appointment's being given to him—in fine, that Col^o Lathams men were not satisfactory to the Dist. & he could only get a very few to sign it & he said, well, he would go to Washington, and (3) get a plenty there, or, of the Town people to sign it. I am furthermore informed that Col. Latham enjoined *Secrecy* on those he presented his pettn to, in the Dist. Now, then, I put it to you, whether you, will, countenance such an underhanded method of enlarging the Bench, to make & unmake County officers, or even to prevent two of Col^o Lathams favourites, from mustering under Hanse Hardison? Surely, better motives would not need the concealment by Col^o Latham in this affair.

Dr. Potts³⁵ informs me, that he was called professionally down to M^{rs} Mallisons, a few days ago, and he was there told by a respectable citizen that when Selbys batch of new majistrates for the new purchase Was handed him, that he remarked, strike out all except Zach^r Eborn, Jur. & I will sign it—the rest are too young & foolish & only intended to job with. W^m Barrow informs me, this morning, that several signed, but very many refused to sign the pett^{ns} on the same ground. The licence, afforded by the plan of pett^g is clearly abused—& perverted to a mere tool wherewith to pull one down & build (4) up some one else. Well, I hope the County will have no cause to rue it. I am however purswaided, that you will keep an eye to the right of these matters, & rise above the little jockeying of—I could say who.

Yours very respectfully
Jos. B. Hinton

To Thos. W. Blackledge Esq
Gen^l Blount &
Gen^l Williams

P.S. I have to day learned that a Pettⁿ was a few day since in W^m Marshes store for signatures and many were signing it, to make Joseph Bonner³⁶ & M^r Vandevieer Majestrates for Bath Dist.

[No address]

³⁵This could be a reference to Dr. John Potts, a politically active physician who lived in Edgecombe County. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 61.

³⁶A Joseph Bonner lived in Bath in 1830, when he purchased a house built in the early 1820s. Prior to that time a Joseph Bonner sold a lot in Washington to an Episcopal congregation, which built the first St. Peter's Church there in 1824. Reed, *Beaufort County*, 140; Loy and Worthy, *Washington and the Pamlico*, 498.

*Nathaniel Macon to John Gray Blount*WASHINGTON 21 Dec^r 1827

Sir

Your letter of the first of this month, has been received, The contents has & shall have my most Serious consideration: If it be practicable to deepen the Swash, The advantage to North Carolina will be incalculable, but before it be undertaken the practicability ought to be ascertained. The authority to do it, is certainly in the government of the State & not in the Government of the United States, if the government of the United States, can do it rightfully, she must possess both the right of Soil & the right of Jurisdiction, & can do whatever she pleases within the limits of the State, the place being covered with water cannot alter the right nor change the owner, The Subject like every other one, to which you may think proper to call my attention, Shall have it in the most undivided manner

The Missouri debate³⁷ ought to have ceased the people of the Southern states, of any desire to change or alter the consstitution of the united states by consstruction, every power gained in that way, tends to Strengthen the claim then made, & to render the government more difficult to manage; The government was only made for war & commerce, then the Seperate states could not manage (2) to advantage, [manuscript torn] the propriety of granting them; but let the government acquire by any means, powers not granted, & the result must be improper & unjust legislation to Some of the states; two complete & perfect governments could not long remain over the Same country, of course our two governments, ought to be Strictly confined within their delegated powers, that they may be lasting

Nothing new, but what may be Seen in the news papers, The warm friends of General Jackson appear to be certain, that he will be, by the people, elected the next president, but an administration, with all its patronage is hard to beat

³⁷Macon's reference here is to the Missouri Compromise of 1820, by which Maine entered the Union as a free state while Missouri entered as a slave state with the understanding that no more states formed from the Louisiana Territory would be allowed to enter as slave states, if their boundaries were north of 36°30' (which was the southern boundary of Missouri). Hence Missouri would be the only slave state above the compromise line. Slavery was to be permissible in states that might be formed south of the line. This compromise endured until 1854, when passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed it. Three years later, in the famous Supreme Court decision involving *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, the compromise was said by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney and the majority of the court never to have been constitutional. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 159-160, 217, 221-222.

I am with esteem & respect
Sir
Y^r ob^t Ser^t
Nath^l Macon

Addressed: M^r John G. Blount
Washington
N^o Carolina

Benjamin F. Blackledge's Account of an Abortive Duel

[December, 1827]

The following is a correct statement of the conversations that passed between, and in the presence, of M^r Barker & myself, during the late transactions, at *Manchac*³⁸ and at *Baton Rouge* in regard to the affair, between M^r Smith and Doctor Carthy—

M^r Smith and myself arrived at *Manchac*, about 12 oclock on the 5th of Dec^r & lodged at the house of a M^r *Nelson* who lived between a mile and two miles from M^r Barker's residence—On the evening of the same day I presented to Doctor Carthy, M^r Smith's invitation to a meeting—the acceptance of the challenge, was handed to M^r Smith on the evening of the same day in presence of myself—During this interview M^r Smith desired M^r Barker, to state to Doctor Carthy, that he would be in *Baton Rouge* on the 6th & to convey to Doctor Carthy a request to be there on the same day—mentioning that it was important to him to get home by the first of Jan^y, M^r Barker consented to do so, disclaiming however, the idea of acting as Doctor Carthy's friend in this affair—The 6th proved to be a rainy & disagreeable day & as we did not receive from Doctor Carthy the slightest intimation, of his intention to comply with M^r Smiths request, we concluded to remain where we were, & go up on the 7th the day appointed by Doctor Carthy—had we have gone up on the 6th we could have made no progress in the affair, as M^r Barker who acted as Doctor Carthys friend, was to my certain knowledge at *Manchac*, untill late on the evening of the 6th Shortly after our arrival at

³⁸ Manchac was a small village in the southern part of the East Baton Rouge parish about eight miles south of the city of Baton Rouge. Later in the nineteenth century it became a railroad station on the Yazoo & Mississippi Railroad. Alcée Fortier (ed.), *Louisiana: Comprising Sketches of Parishes, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form* (n.p., Century Historical Association, 3 volumes, 1914), II, 124.

Baton Rouge on the 7th M^r Barker, called and left with me a list of the articles of agreement, stating that we might keep them for consideration untill breakfast time the next morning, appointing that time for their ratification Within one hour after this I called on M^r Barker at the request of M^r *Smith*, and suggested to him the propriety, of immediately fixing on some place "near the spot" on which the meeting would take place remarking to him that otherwise, we might loose opportunities of getting to it, & be detained in Baton Rouge (2) longer than was convenient, that when once at this place, we could easily come to a final adjustment of the articles—It must have been evident to M^r Barker from the above remarks that we had not thought of such a thing as a meeting near Baton Rouge, but that the suggestion was made, under the impression that the meeting would take place near the boundary line, where M^r Smith & Doctor Carthy could have met on terms of equality—he replied that he was unacquainted with the localities of places, but that he would call on me after dinner—M^r Barker accordingly called after dinner, & very much to my surprise, mentioned that he had horses saddled & proposed that we should ride out & fix on some spot, on which the meeting could take place on the morning or evening of the next day, as we might afterwards determine—I told M^r Barker that I was not prepared to comply with his request, that I would first see my principal, & then give him an answer—he replied certainly, that I was at liberty to do so; On seeing M^r Smith we concurred in the opinion that we ought to object to the vicinity of Baton Rouge as the place of meeting unless we could have an assurance that the civil Authority would not interfere—On my return to M^r Barker I told him, that we should object to Baton Rouge as the place of meeting—that in case of an arrest, of which we thought there was great danger, neither M^r Smith, nor myself (being strangers) could give bail—that it would be nearly impossible for us to escape—the passing of a steam Boat being too uncertain to depend on—he replied that we could use horses untill we could get a boat—I told him that we had no horses nor the means of obtaining them—he expressed surprise at the objection, said that it was his sincere opinion, formed from the sentiments of the public on the subject of duelling that the civil Authority would not interfere "But that he could not give any assurance to this effect" that he would offer us some of his own horses, if they were not (3) engaged on his farm, to facilitate an escape—which I considered as a promise to do nothing—Because if it was necessary for us to escape—it would be equally necessary for him to do so, which would put it out of his power to assist us—I then supposed to M^r Barker the case of M^r Smiths being wounded, of which there was every probability—stating that Baton Rouge was the only place, to which he could be carried for

medical attendance, that I must either desert him or go with him—be arrested & imprisoned & in case of the affair terminating fatally to either of the principals & subsequent arrest we should be tried by strangers to whom our very names were unknown—remarking to him at the same time, that was but fifty miles to the boundary line—M^r Barker then desired to have M^r Smiths ultimatum and in writing—In conveying this request to M^r Smith—I did not make use of the word “ultimatum” But used words which I conceived to be equivalent—I told M^r Smith—that M^r Barker desired to have a final & decided answer & wished to have it in writing—M^r Smith & myself again concurred in the opinion, that we should continue firm in the objection, which we had made, I then gave M^r Barker the note embraced in the correspondence and containing the objection—I In a very short time received a note from M^r Barker stating, that henceforward Doctor Carthy could recognise no further claim from M^r Smith As Doctor Carthy, had in his letter to Doctor Hughes expressed so great a willingness to meet M^r Smith, neither of us had, the most distant idea, that an objection made on such reasonable grounds, would be made use of, to put an abrupt conclusion to the affair—As soon as we perceived that such was the case, we immediately withdrew the objection, & consented to meet on their own ground rather than be disappointed, they refused to renew the negotiation—By consenting to renew the negotiations they could not have been disappointed in any of their previous calculations, as the affair would (4) have gone on, as if the objection had never been made, the articles could have been ratified, at the time appointed, by M^r Barker and the meeting, might have taken place on the next day—the 8th as proposed—As it might, be supposed, by some persons, from my not giving an answer, to M^r Barker’s proposal to meet in the vicinity of Baton Rouge without having first consu[l]ted M^r Smith, that the objection to meet there, came mostly from M^r Smith, I can assure them, that if M^r Smith had differed from me, and approved of the place proposed, I should have objected & would not have consented to his meeting, at what I conceived to be so improper a place, & one placing the parties on such unequal terms, without having first attempted to obtain a more suitable one, and this I thought would be the effect of our objection—

(Signed) B. F. Blackledge

A true copy of the original now in my possession—

[Signature illegible]

1828

Isaac W. Hughes to Nathaniel Smith

NEWBERN Jan^{ro} 6th 1828

Sir

Your absence has necessarily delayed the intimation which I promised in my Note of the 6th July last to give you respecting the time of my intended visit to the North. I have now the honour to inform you that any period agreeable to yourself, between the present time and the 15th next month I shall be ready to meet you either in Norfolk or Washington City, and it is only necessary I conceive, that you specify the day: all further arrangements may be subsequently adjusted by our respective friends.

I am Sir, your obedient Servant
Isaac W Hughes

To Mr Nathaniel Smith

Addressed: Mr Nathaniel Smith

*Articles of Agreement between Richard D. Spaight and
Isaac W. Hughes*

[January 18, 1828]

It is agreed between Richard D Spaight second to, and acting for Nathaniel Smith and Isaac W Hughes acting for himself, (his friend and second Frederick B Shepard not being in Newbern) that the following be substituted for article second in the articles of agreement entered into and agreed upon on the fifth day of May A D 1827 by Richard D Spaight second to Nathaniel Smith and Alexander Gaston second to Isaac W Hughes, Viz, that the parties shall meet in Norfolk on Monday the fourth day of February A D 1828 to decide the contest in the vicinity of that place, on land belonging to, and under the jurisdiction of, the United States on said day or the next day after, viz, Tuesday the fifth day of the same month, as may be agreed upon. Agreed to this 18th day of January AD 1828

Isaac W Hughes
Richd D Spaight

N.B. I W Hughes will be at the Stage tavern in Norfolk on Sunday 3rd
February A D 1828

Isaac W. Hughes to Richard D. Spaight

NEWBERN JAN^{ry} 21st 1828

Sir

In answer to your note handed me this afternoon, I have merely to say that I must insist upon a strict compliance on the part of M^r N. Smith with the articles already concluded upon. I shall myself implicitly comply with them.

I am your obedient Servant
Isaac W Hughes

Rich^d D. Spaight Esq

N.B. I think every circumstance concurs to insure an uninterrupted meeting, and it is certainly unnecessary, to anticipate difficulties.

Addressed: Richard D Spaight Esq

Richard D. Spaight to Isaac W. Hughes [copy]

January 22nd 1828

Sir

Your note of the date of yesterday was handed me by Mr James E Bettner. It is in reply to the article, which I had the honour of handing you yesterday in the words following, Viz, "It is agreed between Richard D Spaight second to Nathaniel Smith and Isaac W Hughes for himself (his second Frederick Shepard being absent) that the following be made as an additional article to those already agreed upon and entered into, Viz, If from any cause or accident the parties shall not meet at Norfolk at the time prescribed, the party, arriving there first, shall remain a week at the stage tavern in Norfolk for the arrival of the other party; and if, from any cause the contest can not take place in the vicinity of Norfolk as prescribed in a former article, the parties shall select some other place and repair without delay, to said other place for the purpose of deciding the

contest, and if, from any cause the contest can not take place at such other place then an other place shall be agreed upon; and so on untill the contest shall be decided." I proposed the article, not because M^r Smith was unwilling to comply with "the articles already concluded upon," for he is anxious, on his part, to comply with them and pursue the matter untill a final decision shall take place, but to prevent, by any accident or cause happening to either party, any interruption to the final and determined conclusion of the matter. In that spirit I proposed the (2) article, one perfectly equal to both parties and insuring a meeting. If you do not wish to agree to such an article, as I conclude from your letter of the date of yesterday, I can only say, that I will not press it upon you—I proposed the article to you individually for the same reason I proposed the one about time and place, which you have already agreed upon (and which was made to suit your convenience as to place) because your second M^r Frederick B Shepard was not in town or expected here before the meeting between you and M^r Smith. I hand this to M^r Bettner, with the request, that he will hand it to you.

Your obt Serv^t
(signed) Rich^d D Spaight

D^r Isaac W Hughes
Jany 24th 1828

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a letter rec^d from R. D. Spaight Esq^r directed to D^r I. W. Hughes—to be immediately delivered by me. J.E. Bettner

Copy of letter to D^r Isaac W Hughes
dated 22nd day of January 1828

[No address]

Isaac W. Hughes to Richard D. Spaight

January 24th 1828

Sir

In answer to your Note of 22nd Jan^{ry} handed me a moment ago by James E. Bettner, I have only to say that I could not agree to your proposition because it was so indefinite and that it would open a door to

further and certain procrastination, in the adjustment of the contest between Mr Smith & myself; I hold it indispensibly necessary that the articles concluded upon, shall be strictly fulfilled: and have no doubt that it depends entirely upon Mr Smith that they be accomplished without further negociation

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant
Isaac W Hughes

To Rich^d D Spaight Esq

Addressed: Richard D. Spaight Esq

*John Gray Blount to Patsey Blount*¹

WASHINGTON Feby 1st 1828

Dear Patsey

As I promised to write you I do so without having any thing to communicate for all is so dull here that nothing occurs worth note, but to you at Tarborough where all is bustle and confusion of pleasure that may appear strange Tell Sally the peach trees arrived this morning for which I thank her and wish she had sent a few switches of the bearing Limbs of the Hunge Apples but them you can bring when you come home

W^m L Blount² informs me that Nathan G. Blount³ is desirous to have permission to take to his House Johns spinning machine to make some leg If Sally can spare it & John is under no promise not to do so I see no reason why he may not have it & if he gets it I will have one made but I am under an impression he promised the man not to let any person make one leg it; I can see no reason why he should have required that as he cannot make (2) them as fast as wanted in Tennessee and if Mr Blount can make them here it will be a great thing for this Country I therefore hope that John is under no such promise that Sally knows of. enquire of her & inform me

¹ Patsey Baker Blount was one of John Gray Blount's daughters. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, II, 54, 58.

² For William L. Blount see 1822, n. 6.

³ Nathan G. Blount is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of two. Potter, 1820 *North Carolina Census*, Lenoir County, 6.

All are well

Your affectionate Father
JG Blount

Addressed: Miss P. B. Blount
Tarborough

B. W. Daniel⁴ to William Augustus Blount

RALEIGH Feby 8 1828

D^r Sir

you will find enclosed the Drft which I thought I had forwarded to you sometime ago, which in fact was not rec^d till within a few days past—

I would advise you to remit to Watsons instead to myself—the Drft will of course be evidence of its being paid—should you not find it convenient to pay in current money in Philadelphia, your safest plan will be to deposit in one of the Banks in Newbern a[nd] forward to the Watsons your Check on the Bank for the sum deposited—

The enclosed Drft you find is drawn with the discount upon our note, on, presuming that payment would be made in our money Sh^d therefore payment be made in Northern funds you be entitled to the deduction of the discount charged in the Drf—

Wishing you health & hapiness & a bountiful Crop & your return in the fall—

I bid you a dieu
BW Daniel

Tell Nancy howdy

Addressed: General William A Blount
Washington NC

⁴Beverly W. Daniel (1777-1840) of Wake County was adjutant general of North Carolina (1821-1840) and a United States marshal for several years. He also served as the first president of the North Carolina Jockey Club. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 283; Shanks, *Papers of Willie Mangum*, I, 98n.

H. B. Croom's Account of Smith-Hughes Duel

[February 22, 1828]

This is to certify that in a conversation [illegible] day, with Mr. Frederick B. Shepard, he den[ied] in substance, that any distinct intimation was given, during the time of the meeting [illegible] Mr. Smith and Dr. Hughes, by either Mr. Smith or his friend, That they would expect to hear from Dr. Hughes when he shall be recovered from his wound or when he shall be sufficiently recovered to renew the contest.

I put this question to Mr. Shepard: Did not Mr. Smith, or his friend, say to you that they should expect to hear from Dr. Hughes when he shall be recovered? Mr. Shepard answered *No*.

Some other conversation to this purport passed between us—

Mr. Shepard further denied, that Dr Ar[manuscript torn] or the attending surgeon, left Dr. Hughes [manuscript torn] all, during the affair (after being first called) and that he was neither *called* back, nor [manuscript torn] *return* to Dr Hughes, but remained with him until they parted finally—

February 22nd 1828

H. B. Croom

*John Gray Blount to William Gaston*⁵

WASHINGTON March 3d 1828

Dear Sir

Yours of the 29th ulto is to hand and it is due to myself to say to you that at the time I made the arrangement with you I had no doubt but that my Cotton Crop would ensure punctuallity on my part. When I confirmed it I had some cause to doubt, but was determined to risque the consequence rather than appear to quibble still believing I must make half a Crop which with my other resources would enable me to be punctual. A total failure which I could not expect has disappointed me in all my arrangements. As soon as that was discovered I prevailed on my Son John to proceed to Tennessee to press the collection of money for former sales of Land & to sell more if possible at any sacrifice to raise

⁵This letter is from the William Gaston Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. It is published through the kind permission of Dr. Carolyn Wallace, director of the Southern Historical Collection.

the necessary sums to answer my purpose tho not hearing from him since his arrival there has been the cause of my not sooner writing you.

I can now only say time is all I want for I know the consequence and therefore as my confessing Judgment as you propose might deprive me of some time and could not extend if I cannot in justice to myself do so; but be assured no time shall be lost that I can avoid in selling it. My main dependance is in collecting from Tennessee for here money cannot be had that I see on any sacrifice.

I am with respect Your most Obedt.

J. G. Blount

Addressed: William Gaston Esquire

Greenville

Endorsed: W. Gaston

vs.

Jno. G. Blount,

Bill-Protest & Notice. A. L. S.

*John Gray Blount, Jr., to John Coffee*⁶

NASHVILLE March 15th 1828

D Sir

As you were interested with Anderson⁷ and Strother⁸ in locating lands, and much about the office, I take the liberty of inquiring whether you recollect ever to have heard Strother say, or do you know, what was the understanding about the warrants belonging to JG Blount which Strother had in possession. Were they ever considered as warrants put

⁶John Coffee (1772-1834) was an intimate friend and business associate of Andrew Jackson. Coffee was a partner in the mercantile firm of Jackson, Coffee & Hutchings in Tennessee. He also indulged in land speculation and worked as a surveyor. Coffee commanded Jackson's cavalry during the War of 1812 and eventually obtained the rank of general. In 1816, after the Choctaw Indian treaty ceding more western territory to the United States, Coffee was named the surveyor of the district. In that capacity he continued his land speculations through the Cypress Land Company that he organized with Tennessee friends. Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*, I, 244-248; III, 283; Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 132, 134-135, 172, 257, 322, 331. This letter is from the Coffee Papers, Dyas Collection, Tennessee State Library and Archives, and is published with their kind permission.

⁷This probably refers to William P. Anderson. See 1806, n. 7.

⁸For John Strother see 1804, n. 3.

into the hand of the *Company* to be located. My reason for making this inquiry is, that Col^o Anderson as an expiring effort, now for the first time puts up a claim to a location interest—My impression is, that there was a written instrument between Anderson & Strother, which expressly excluded them from being considered warrants in which the Company had an interest—I *know* that it was distinctly understood between Strother and myself that he as agent for JG Blount was to locate them, or have it done, and that no extra charge would be made by him for the services—I [illegible] of this, I was in the habit of selling, or making any other disposition of the warrants at any time I pleased and did get several located by persons in no way connected with Anderson & Strother; which would have been considered a violation of the engagements if any such had existed—you would particularly oblige me by stating what you recollect on this subject, as Col^o Anderson I believe is disposed to give some trouble with his iniquitous claim—

Your Obdt^t Servt.
JG Blount

[No address]

James H. Causten to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON March 29 1828

John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington N.C.

D Sir

The Select Committee of the Senate charged with the French spoliation claims have this day agreed to the following as the basis of a report which they have instructed their chairman to prepare,

Resolved: That at the conclusion of the convention between the United States and France, of the 30th of Sep 1800, there were large and just claims due from the French Government to citizens of the United States for spoliations on their commerce.

Resolved: That by the terms of the said Convention as finally ratified, the United States relinquished the said claims and released the French government from the payment thereof for a consideration valuable to the United States.

Resolved: That it is proper and expedient for the United States to make a reasonable allowance to those whose claims were so released.

The Committee decline stating the amount of the claims or the sum of Indemnity which ought to be granted for them; they will leave the latter to be provided by the Senate: but it is possible they may change their decision in this respect. It is proper to add, that the Committee contemplate a compromise rather than a full payment. It is probable the chairman will require (with my aid) a week or ten days to draw up the report—in the mean time I send you the above information, which ought not to reach the newspapers or be communicated beyond the claimants.

As the time has arrived to make an impression on the Senators, favorable to the claims, I respectfully suggest the propriety of your addressing a letter to each of yours (M^r Macon & M^r Branch)⁹ which shall manifest the deep interest felt in the matter at issue. My Motive for suggesting this proceeding is, that the claimants may shew some solicitude *directly*, rather than through an agent which is not so effectual or so well received at any time. I flatter myself with obtaining a favorable report speedily, and a prompt adoption thereof by the Senate within the present session of Congress. You shall be kept advised of the progress and result.

As I contemplate getting the French claims sufficiently disposed of to enable me to introduce the rejected Spanish claims before the adjournment of Congress—at least so far as to obtain a call for all the papers relating to them, to be furnished at the opening of the next session, I respectfully request you will forward to me within a few days the Memorial &^c on that subject. Please direct to me, sealed, and under cover to the Hon: John Barney¹⁰ Member of Congress.

It is very long since I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you, tho' I have frequently written to you—I indulge the expectation of soon being favored with your attention, and in the mean time remain, Dear Sir,

With much respect and esteem,
Your most Obt. Serv^t
James H. Causten

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

⁹For more information on Nathaniel Macon and John Branch see 1803, n. 91, and 1823, n. 18.

¹⁰John Barney (1785-1857) of Maryland served as a captain during the War of 1812 and also served in the United States House of Representatives (1825-1829). *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 817; *Who Was Who*, 110.

*Thomas S. Singleton, Edward Graham, and John Burgwyn to
Richard D. Spaight*

NEW BERN Ap^l 7th 1828

Dear Sir,

We have rec^d Doctor Carthy's answer to our letter, dated Manchac, Feb^y 13th 1828; in which, he authorises us to say to you, that he "cheerfully accepts the withdrawal of your challenge, as oblivious of the past;" and that "he never entertained any vindictive feelings towards you; that he accepted your challenge only because he considered it a course *prescribed*, although at the moment entirely unconscious of any offence given by him to you, and sincerely regrets your misapprehension of the matter, which the peremptory tone of your note, forbade him to correct."

We hope & believe that the above explanation will prove as satisfactory to you, as it is pleasing to us.

very respectfully
Your ob serv^{ts} &c
Tho^s S. Singleton
Edward Graham
J Burgwyn

Addressed: Richard D. Spaight Esq.

*Richard D. Spaight to Thomas S. Singleton, Edward Graham,
and John Burgwyn*

(Copy)

May 17th 1828

Gentlemen

Your letter of the 7th of last month containing Dr Carthy's explanation was handed me during that month by Edward E Graham Esq^r

I receive it as satisfactory.

Your Obt Servt
(signed) Rich^d D Spaight

Messrs

Thomas S. Singleton
Edward Graham
John Burgwyn

(Directed to) Thomas S Singleton, Edward Graham and John Burgwyn
Esquires

Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount [?]

WASHINGTON May 20 1828

D^r Sir

Being engaged in an attempt to Settle the Estate of the late John Nicholson of Philad^a and being informed that he either in his own name or in conjunction with Rob^t Morris¹¹ held large quantities of Land in your State some of which if I am not mistaken were sold by you to him. The Object therefore of this letter is to request that you will be so good as to inform me whether you have any knowledge of any tracts of land in your State to which the heirs of Nicholson may now have an Equitable or legal title Stating their quantity & situation.

Will you also Sir have the goodness to inform me whether it would not be expedient to have the Deed recorded which I formerly sent on to you & which you returned to me.

I am very respectfully

Your Mo Obd Ser

Edw Livingston

Please to direct your Ans^r to this place from whence it will be forwarded to me

[No address]

James H. Causten to John Gray Blount [printed copy]

BALTIMORE May 26th, 1828

Dear Sir:

I have the pleasure to inform you that my efforts in the cause which yourself and many others have confided to me, in relation to the French Spoliation Claims, have been crowned with all the success which could have been hoped for within the period which has elapsed. On Saturday

¹¹This refers to Robert Morris (1734-1806), financier of the American Revolution. Morris was a member of the Continental Congress; a signer of the Declaration of Independence; superintendent of finance under the Articles of Confederation; a delegate to the Annapolis Convention (1786) and the Constitutional Convention (1787); and a United States senator. Speculation in real estate brought about his financial ruin in 1798, precipitating his arrest and imprisonment for debts. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 758-759; *Who Was Who*, 439.

last the Select Committee of the Senate, who were charged with the numerous Memorials on that subject, made a very able and favorable report thereon, of which the Senate voted six hundred copies to be printed. The report is of considerable length, and the printing will probably require two or three weeks—I shall endeavour to send you a copy, and shall seize the first opportunity to cause it to be copied into the newspapers of the day.

The report estimates the claims at from eight to fifteen millions of dollars—establishes their meritorious, equitable, and legal character—intimates that a gross sum (not stated, but contemplated to be from two to three millions of dollars, which I confidently expect will be enlarged,) should be tendered to the claimants in full discharge—and that a commission be raised to pass upon the validity and amount of the claims.

This report will come up as unfinished business early in the next ensuing Session, and be then acted on; the report of the last Session was not acted on, because a new Congress had intervened.

I regard the present position and prospect of the claims as very favorable; and doubtless new lights will be thrown upon them by the recent act of the Senate, removing the injunction of secrecy from their Executive Journal up to the last Session of Congress, which will most probably disclose some of the motives and considerations which induced the Senate, in 1800-1, to release France from her obligations, and place them upon our own Government.

After spending nearly five months at Washington, I returned to this City yesterday, and hasten to make this communication, as well to apprize you of the success obtained and future prospect, as to add my assurance that every further attention shall be given to facilitate a successful result.

With much respect, I am,
Your most obt. servt.
James H. Causten

P. S. I have not yet found a safe opportunity to introduce to the attention of Congress the unsatisfied claims under the Florida treaty, and hence hold them in reserve. Prudential considerations have imperatively commanded their suspension; but I beg you to be assured that the first fit occasion shall be seized on, and a becoming energy used, to impress on Congress that justice, good faith, and the Memorialists, are all creditors of the Government.

John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington N.C.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

John Gray Blount to William Augustus Blount [copy]

November 28th 1828

William

Col^o Rob^t Love who has long been my Agent in Haywood Buncomb Counties to sell Land writes me that he will be a Raleigh about the first of December with some Horses and wishes me to meet him there which I at present cannot do therefore I wish you to do so and any arrangement you may make with him I hereby confirm

You have herewith the agreement I made with him which will govern you in that respect and also a List of the Sales made by him under a power from John Strother which he can shew how has been settled them marked doubtful on that List if collected were to be divided between JGB & M^r Strothers Representative & also a List of all the Lands sold by Col^o Love since he was my Agent up to Dec^r 1820 since when I have received no returns but have no doubt he will furnish an accurit List And in making out his Am^t he will state if any rec^d for lands sold under Strothers power & for such as sold by him the time when sold you also have a Mem^o of Lands reserved & which Col^o Love was not authorised to sell by our agreement but was afterwards by Letter on the same terms as the other Now I expect before that Letter some expences had arrived which he has charged me & then properly; but as since authorised to sell on same terms as the others they ought to stand on the same footing (2) as the others Col^o Love will make out a General Account of all Sums rec^d & paid me of which each will have a Copy He will also furnish a List of all Lands sold since 1820 noting such as paid & due & note on the List of 1820 such as paid, due or lost And furnish a List of the Lands unsold as accurate as possible and perhaps you & he may effect a Sale of all the ballance to Swain or some other person even on long credit well secured as I wish to close that business. If Judge Sneed at home I wish you to ask him for the discharge of M^{rs} Blount to me for her claim on my Brothers Thomas claim on the firm of J G & Tho Blount which I handed him when defending me against her Suit It is important I should have it herewith 70\$ to renew at Raleigh Bank McNair has the note 13\$ to pay for [illegible] Land & [illegible] to pay Horse expences

Mem^o copy to WA Blount

1829

*Jesse Speight*¹ to *James Manney*²
(Copy)

GREEN COUNTY 30th March 1829

Doct James Manney

D Sir,

I have this moment received yours of the 22nd instant and am much obliged to you for its contents, you may rest assured that all I can do for you shall be freely done, and I think you may safely count on getting a large majority in this County. one thing I know R. D. Spaight never was nor never will be a popular man in Greene, I would advise you to come up as soon as convenient, and any assistance which I can be to you shall be cheerfully render'd—our Superior Court commences this day week. at the same time is Lenoir court. I shall be at the latter a few days and from thence to our Court. Suppose you meet me at Lenoir and come up to Greene you say you will support Gen. Jacksons administration. So far as the public good shall require, that is just such (2) a man as I want to represent us. I want no party man, I want a man that will strenuously condemn and honestly approve.

I think sir the Circumstance of your supporting M^r Adams will make little difference in Greene, we don't regard Gov. Spaight³ as a Jackson man—only so far as to answer self aggrandisement—in conclusion permit me to wish you great success and prosperity.

Yours &c
(Sign'd) J. Speight

¹For Jesse Speight see 1818, n. 8.

²James Manney of Carteret County, who served in the North Carolina legislature (1834), was strongly opposed to Andrew Jackson's presidency. Because of Jackson's popularity with North Carolina voters, however, many politicians posed as supporters, although their political beliefs did not necessarily change. Richard Dobbs Spaight eventually did subscribe to Jacksonian policies, but Manney continued his anti-Jackson views. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 302; Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 6, 22, 35-36, 84.

³Jesse Speight opposed Richard Dobbs Spaight in several political contests. In 1828 Speight won the speakership of the state Senate from Spaight. A year later Speight helped to engineer Richard D. Spaight's defeat by John Owen in the gubernatorial race. Speight's reference to "Gov. Spaight" apparently was a satirical jab at Spaight's political ambitions, which were in fact realized in 1835 with his election to the governorship. Speight's statement that he wanted no party men was disingenuous because he solidly backed Jacksonian Democrats. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 22, 30-32, 35-36, 42, 47, 50, 57.

P.S. You will find it infinitely to your advantage to visit Greene, Wayne, and Johnston as much and as soon as possible.

(Signed) J. S.

I certify the above is a *true* copy of Gen^l Jesse Speight's letter to Dr. James Manney—

J. S. W. Heller

I have seen a letter in possession of Dr. James Manney, signed "J. Speight," which the Doctor informed was written by Gen. Speight. The above is substantially, according to my recollection, a correct copy—

Jn^o I. Pasteur⁴

Newbern, Aug 5th 1829

Michael Hollowell to John Gray Blount

PROSPECT MILLS/June 16th 1829

Mr. John G. Blount, Sir, this will inform you that we have not yet got the Corn from the North Side. I Saw Carrow⁵ at Hyde Cort & Bargain with him for his flat at 7/6 p^r Day & informed Harris to Send after hur. I understand that Harris Sent after hur Last weak the hands he Sent Started with hur & was taken in a squeal [squall] & onfeeted one of the Masst. & Returned Back to the Lake Landing & Deliverd hur where they took hur from with one of her Masst tore up & Returned home again thimselves—therefor Leaves the flat at the Lake Landing & the Corn at Harris I am two Buisey to trouble the Corn at this time I have therefore wrote Harris Not to Send after the flat again untill we was Dun the Crop for that is Maid & the present Crop Both is to be Maid I understand his Looks Reasoneble well & I thinks that Myne is tolleably Likely Both Corn & Cotting where the Cotten Stood will two Lickely to be neclected Either By Harris or Myself althou Backword; that is I now

⁴For John I. Pasteur see 1812, n. 46. Pasteur, an enemy of the old party caucus system, supported John Quincy Adams for the presidency in 1824 and 1828. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 17.

⁵This reference is probably to Henry Carrow of Hyde County. He is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of thirteen. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 8.

my crop is Backword. I cant think that Shall be Dun working of it Short of the first of augusts Both my Corn at home & in the Bay—& Cottin I am only about half Dun Laying By what is at home yet—my wheat I Shall finish Cuting about one Day More for which I was Compled to Cut Grean for I never Saw Nothing So Badly taken with the Ruest as it was & wod not have ben fit to Cut in ten or 15 Days had not Ben for the Ruest yours

M. Hollowell

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount
Washington

*Jesse Speight to James B. Laroque*⁶
(Copy)

Sunday Morning, July 26th 1829

D Sir

After the interview I had with you on Yesterday, I have thought it most proper to place in your hands the following Statement, in regard to Doctr. Manneys *Celebrated* letter, about which so much seems to be said. at the verry time I received the Sentinel which contained the publication that Doctr Manney was a Candidate, (and I think his Circular) I also received from the doctor a letter informing me he was a candidate, and asking me whether or not, I thought the Election in Green would turn on the presidential contest, provided him and M^r R. D. Spaight were the candidates. To which I answered I did not believe, between them, it would, and as a proof, cited him to the known prejudice existing in Green against Spaight, and that if he would come up, any assistance which I could render I would cherfully give, (meaning thereby) as Doct Manney was not acquainted, I would assist him in forming an acquaintance. I repeat again, my letter to Doct Manney was an Ansswer to his informing me he was a candidate.

If Doct Manney, or any of his friends, thinks from that letter that I intended to Vote for him, or even to influence others, they are much mistaken. How, I ask, could I promise to Support him, when Six months be-

⁶James B. Laroque is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of six in New Hanover County. Since Trenton is in Jones County, it is possible that he had moved from New Hanover County by 1829. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, New Hanover County, 22.

fore I Said in the event of M^r Bryan declining, I should be a candidate, And much more when I replied that the Doctor course in the Presidential Contest had been marked by every act which would possibly depict a Tyrant. He had not only abused Gen Jackson, but also his amiable wife.⁷ I am perfectly willing the (2) original letter should be exhibited, and if you dont find the Substance to Correspond with what I have Said, I am much mistaken. I want you to show this letter to the people of Trenton &c. And in the mean time permit me to Subscribe myself your Sincere friend

(Signed) J. Speight

P.S. In fulfilment of my promise that I would render the doct. any assistance which I could, when we parted last May at Smithfield, he returned home through Green County. I gave him letters of introduction to a number of the most respectable men in our County—and I must further add—that Doct. Manney and myself are perfectly friendly. Signed JS.

Directed to D^r James R Laroque
Trenton
N.C.

Care of M^r McDaniel

We hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an original letter that Doct Laroque Says he received from Genl Jesse Speight.

James R Conner
Henry R Mitchell

⁷When Andrew Jackson first met Rachel Donelson in 1788, she was the wife of Lewis Robards. Rachel and Robards had experienced domestic problems but had recently been reconciled. Jackson was a boarder at the home of Rachel's mother, and he and Rachel became good friends. Robards, himself having the reputation of a philanderer, was suspicious of his wife's relationship with Jackson. There was trouble between the two men that ultimately brought about the estrangement and divorce of Robards and Rachel. Jackson married Rachel at Natchez in 1791, both believing that Rachel's divorce from Robards had been legally granted. Later it was learned that the divorce had not been granted at the time Jackson and Rachel married, and furthermore questions were raised as to the legality of the Jacksons' marriage in Natchez. To set the record straight, Jackson and Rachel, with license purchased, went through a second ceremony in Davidson County, Tennessee, on January 18, 1794. The story surrounding the early relationship of Jackson and Rachel and their subsequent marriage—after living in adultery as the Adams forces charged—was used against Jackson in the presidential campaign of 1828. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 41-44, 61-64; Robert V. Remini, *The Election of Andrew Jackson* (Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott Co., 1963), 152-153.

(3) Trenton 8 Aug 1829

D^r Sir

In compliance with your request I herein Enclose you a Certified Copy of Genl Speights letter to Doct^r Laroque of this place

Verry Respectfully
Jas R Conner

Richard D Spaight Esqr
Newbern

Addressed: Richard D. Spaight Esqr
Newbern

S. Brown to Richard D. Spaight

[August 9, 1829]

Sir

I have just recd your note of this date by the hands of Mr Cole and hasten to answer it I have only to say that I have neither been the sole Instrument, nor have I been Instrumental in publishing or distributing any piece in which an attack is made upon you and I can assure you that if such had have been the case I should not shrink for a moment from acknowledging the same I gave a certificate to a friend of mine for publication a few days since but as that had nothing to do with you or your character I do not feel myself called on to give any information relative to that If however you wish to see that you can do so as a matter of courtsy

respectfully
yr obt ser.
S Brown

August 9, 1829
R. D. Spaight Esqr
Present

Addressed: R. D. Spaight
Present

*Robert Love to John Gray Blount*WAYNESVILLE 19th of August 1829John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir/ Your Letter of the 2nd Ins^t is to hand and I will observe Its contents, I have not as yet heard of any Indications of Gold being found near your Lands, yet there is Strong appearances of its probably being within our County, and in our New County Macon, On Sunday last it was pointed out to me by a young with whom I was in company where he said it was reported a Silver Mine was Latterly found, and that considerable of old Sign of diging and of Marked Traces by Blazes, at the place It is on the side of a mountain within your Land, and about Ten Miles from this place—I intend going to See it as soon as I have an opportunity, and when I do I will write you the prospects

I have not heard from you as respects the horsses Vellases which the Gen^l Rec^d from me at Raleigh last winter, I hope they were Satisfactory

I can have a Good opportunity at the meeting of the Gen^l Assembly of Sending you on 8 or 10 head of horsses if you say so as two of my family will be in the Assembly (to wit) James R Love^a who is my youngest Son & William Welch^b a Son in law, and when the[y] go on I can Send by them, payments of this kind I am (2) oblided to agree to receive or I cannot get any thing In some instances I agreed to take Whiskey, and at the time agreed to give fifty Cents and now I cannot Sell the Same (and which I have on hand) for more than Twenty five Cents, Cattle pork and Beacon is not worth more than the expence of taking to market, or least Very Little more, one of my Neighbours took 11 head of reasonable Good grass Cattle a few weeks ago to the Augusta Market, and he told me on his return that he had lost \$25 on them

I am Geting old & infirm so that I am not able to undergo the fa-tigues of your Business in those mountains, and I have spoke to my Son Ja^a R Love to know whether he would undertake the Business or not, and he appears Willing, Therefore If you could forward to him a power for that purpose while he is at Raleigh If you approve of him, I will give

^aJames R. Love (1798-1863) represented Haywood County in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1820 to 1831. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 277, 280, 282, 284, 286, 287, 289, 293, 295.

^bWilliam Welch (1796-1865), married to Mary Ann Love, represented Haywood County in the state House and Senate between 1816 and 1831, and attended the North Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1835. He also served as clerk of the Haywood County court. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 269, 273, 277, 292, 294, 817; Arthur, *Western North Carolina*, 151.

him all the information in my power, and I have no doubt but that he will be able to inform himself in Such a way as to enable him to do the Business much better than I can, as Business of that kind requires a Great deal of activity write to me immediately if you consent for me to Send you on horsses as I will have to go 60 or 70 miles to collect some of them—

Give my best compliments to the General and M^r Thomas Blount and receive them for yourself my best Wishes

yours respectfully &c
R^o Love

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Town of Washington
North Carolina

*Agreement between John Gray Blount
and the Heirs of John Wallace*¹⁰

[September 12, 1829]

Know all men by these Presents that I John Gray Blount the surviving Partner of Blount & Wallace of Shell Castle for and in Consideration of the Heirs at Law of John Wallace the other partner in said concern & himself having this day by mutual consent divided the negros belonging to said concern & for the further consideration of five Shillings to me in hand paid by Thomas B Wallace¹¹ one of the Sons of John Wallace & who had purchased out all the Interest in the negros belonging thereto from his Brother & Sisters & the said John G Blount have bargaind sold and delivered & by these Presents do bargain sell and deliver unto the said Thomas B. Wallace a negro woman named Alice and a negro Boy named Joe which formerly belonged to said Shell Castle concern which said negros I warrant & defend to the said Thomas B Wallace his Heirs & Assigns forever against the Claim of me the said John G Blount or any

¹⁰For John Wallace see 1803, n. 12.

¹¹Thomas B. Wallace is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of ten in Carteret County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Carteret County, 16.

Person claiming from by through or under me In Witness whereof I
have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this 12th day of September 1829

Signed Sealed & Delivered
in presence of—

(Seal)

Shell Castle Accounts

[September 12, 1829]

On settling the Castle accounts & dividing the Property there was a Claim set up by the Heirs of Wallace, Thos B Wallace indivually for money paid by them since the removal of M^{rs} Rebecca Wallace¹² from the Castle when she and they ceased to receive any money from the concerns of the Castle which sums were for the Taxes on the Castle property & for the hire of Negroes for that concern and therefore that concern was liable for each the Partners to pay one half, and as that sum cannot at this time be accurately ascertained it is understood and agreed that so Soon as that shall be ascertained Jn^o G. Blount is to pay the one half thereof out of which is to be deducted Ninety five Dollars which is due him in the division of the Negroes which belonged to that concern Witness our hand this 12: day of September 1829

*Agreement between John Gray Blount
and the Heirs of John Wallace*

[September, 1829]

Know all men by these Presents that I James Wallace¹³ Husband to Louisa Wallace one of the Heirs at Law of John Wallace one of the partners of Blount & Wallace of Shell Castle and Thomas B. Wallace one of the Sons of said John Wallace and who has purchased from his Brother Horatio Wallace and his Sisters Patsey & Elizabeth & their Husbands all the right tittle and Interest which they Severally had both

¹² Rebecca Wallace, John Wallace's widow, is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of eleven. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Carteret County, 16.

¹³ James Wallace is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of two. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Carteret County, 17.

in Law and Equity in the Estate of their dec^d Father in the Shell Castle concern for and in consideration that they with John G. Blount the Surviving partner of Blount & Wallace of Shell Castle having this day by mutual consent divided the negroes belonging to the concern for the further consideration of Five Shillings by the said John G. Blount to the said James Wallace & Tho^s B. Wallace in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledge they the said James Wallace and Tho^s B. Wallace have bargained sold and delivered and by their Presents they do bargain sell and deliver unto the said John G Blount a negro woman named Cloe a woman Phillis and a Girl named———which said negros belonged to the shell Castle concern and them we warrant and defend to the said John G Blount his Heirs and assigns forever against us and our Heirs and all persons claiming from by or under us or either of us in witness whereof we have hereunto set our hand and seals this day of Sep^r 1829—

Signed notice and delivered in
presence of—

(Seal)
(Seal)

Thomas Turner¹⁴ to John Gray Blount

PLYMOUTH Nov 4 1829

John G Blount Esq

Dear Sir,

I am compelled to recal to your recollection, and the recollection of all concerned, the untiring zeal which from the first to the last, I have manifested, by my labor & exertions, to have the work of the Plymouth Turnpike Company executed with facility economy and dispatch; and that I have never yet failed in attending all meetings of Stock Holders and Directors, or in doing anything & every thing in my power to do, to accomplish the undertaking. I am compelled to call this, to your recollection, because it is utterly out of my power to attend the meeting of the Stock Holders in Washington on the 6th; and because, I would not have you or others think, for one moment, that my absence is due, to any cause, but absolute & uncontrollable necessity. And that I am thus necessarily compelled to be (2) absent from that meeting, the following facts, will prove to the satisfaction of every man at all acquainted with business—

¹⁴For Thomas Turner see 1824, n. 10.

1st My Brother is from home, & has been from home, for the last week, & will be, throughout this week, attending to 20 men in the swamp, where our overseer, just at this time cannot attend; he having other business farther up the River.

2^d I have no one who in my absence can attend to my business at Plymouth—

3. My business at Plymouth is as follows

I am loading 2 vessels to the West Indies—I have to give each of them 30,000 shingles pr day—To do which, I have 31 men women & boys & girls at work; for each shingle is to joint. It is good work to count and deliver 60,000 pr day with 4 men.

I have a vessel on the rail ways receiving a new bottom & to be sheath caulked & painted & sails & riggin over hauled & mended. I have 12 men at this job, and it is not easy to find them in the materials, & keep them to work to advantage. (3)

I have much pressing business to do in my office—This has accumulated on my hands since August, because since then, I have been absent at Courts 5 1/2 weeks and have been sick, still longer than that—

I have much other business pressing upon me, which I can not enumerate—and the next week, in Bertie County Court which I am compelled to attend.

Thus engaged, I am satisfied I may be excused, and that all ought to excuse me for not attending the meeting on the 6th I would, but cannot, do more than I can.

It is with great reluctance that I lay before you such a show of business. I assure you, I dislike it very much, lest it may be thought either singular or an effect of Vanity. But, better this, than not excuse myself, as I ought.

You will please use this letter on all proper occasions, to excuse my absence at this time.

And pray; why may not the inclosed papers answer (4) in my room—I have made them out for the purpose, and I trust they will do. The Directors, I have now voted for, in the inclosed papers, are the same precisely, which were elected last year, & which were then approved of by you & M^r Roulhac & all.

If you think as I do, that the inclosed papers will serve in my stead; you & other stockholders, may hold the meeting, & vote for Directors & receive the vote which I give, and so make an election.

After the Election of Directors, they must be consulted upon a time & place of meeting; and they must meet & transact whatever business may come before them. This meeting must be had as soon as possible and I will see it is not long postponed

your friend
Th. Turner

Please return the enclosed letters of [illegible] to me—also your proceedings

[No address]

[Enclosures omitted]

Robert Love to John Gray Blount

WAYNESVILLE 6th of Nov^r 1829

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir/ On the receipt of your Letter perhaps in August last I wrote to you recommending for you to Suffer me to Send you in some horses, But not receiving from you any answer, I have only Sent on one which I have been compel'd to take under a contract for that purpose, I have not Seen the horse but I presume he is a Good one as I am informed he was Valued at one hundred Dollars by three men on their Oaths—I have Sent on a man for to have the horse at Asheville by the time that James R Love Reaches that place, It is about Twenty Miles from this place to where the man lives who Ownd him—

I have it still to recommend you to take horssees as the only Article that can be Sent on to you—for money is out of the question in this County, and the Sale of your Lands will have to Cease without the people can be indulged in makeing such payments as they are able to meet

I also have to inform you that I am so much Debilitated and infirm¹⁵ from age and other causses incident to the human family that I am not able to undergoe the fataigues necessary in Sale of your Lands, which So much in the mountains, and much (2) of it at Sixty & Seventy Miles distance, I have been compel'd to employ assistance in many casses of late, my Son James has attended to a good deal of the Business this year as well as the last, and I would recommend him to you as a Suitable person to be employed in the Business—I will at all times give him my best advise as to the management of the concern—And if it is so that you will intrust the Business to him I will Endeavour to meet [you] or one of your sons in Raleigh about the 10th or 12th of May Next to make a Settlement

¹⁵Robert Love would continue to experience poor health for the rest of his life. In 1834, five years after writing this letter, he was kicked by a horse and crippled until his death in 1845. Arthur, *Western North Carolina*, 127.

of the Business for each of us to Know the concern rests

I know that it will be some time before the whole of the Dbts due you can be collected, The fall season will be the best time to take in horssees, both as to the obtaining of them and the Expenche of geting of them on

I hope yourself and my son may correspond freely while he is in Raleigh

I am Sir with due regard your Ob^t Serv^t

R^o Love

Give my best compliments to each of your sons &c
John Gray Blount Esq^r

[No address]

1830

*Agreement between William Augustus Blount,
B. Runyon, and Bryan Grimes¹*

[January 2, 1830]

On the Second day of January Next, we jointly & severally promise to Pay Bryan Grimes, Guardian to the minor heirs of John Kennedy dec'd on order, forty Dollars, Cents for the hire of negro Isaac until that time, & moreover to find said negro suit of winter, and two suits of summer Clothing; a good and sufficient blanket, hat & two pair of shoes, pay taxes the present year, and return said Negro to said guardians, at the above time: To which payment, we bind ourselves and our heirs—witness our hand and seal this 2nd day of Janry 1830

William Brinkley

Will A Blount Seal (L.S.)

B. Runyon (L.S.)

*Agreement between John Gray Blount and
the Heirs of John Wallace*

[January 12, 1830]

We the undersigned John G Blount surviving Partner of Blount & Wallace and Thomas B Wallace one of the Heirs of said John Wallace & the Attorney & representative of the rest of the Heirs of said John Wallace have this day made a close of all the concerns of said Blount & Wallace & the said John Gray Blount hath given to the said Tho^s B. Wallace his note for four Hundred & twenty Dollars in full of all claims of the said John Wallace & his Heirs against the said John Gray Blount witness our hands this 12th Ja^y 1830

JG Blount

Thos B Wallace

¹Bryan Grimes of Pitt County was married first to Nancy Grist and then to Lucy Olivia Blount, John Gray Blount's daughter. Politically, Grimes was a staunch supporter of Henry Clay and an arch-opponent of Andrew Jackson. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, VI, 251.

Report on a Meeting of the Plymouth Turnpike Company

[January 16, 1830]

At a meeting of the directors of the Plymouth Turnpike Company, held agreeable to advertisement in Thomas Turner's office in Plymouth on the 16 Jany 1830 Present Thomas Walker, John G. Roulhac² & Thomas Turner

Resolved that John G. Blount be credited by \$12 for surveying road, & by 90 cents for paying a printer, & his amount filed Jany 14, 1830.

Resolved that two persons be appointed to examine the work done by Major John Clárk on his lot of Road No 1; and by John G. Blount on his lots of Road no 2 & 3; that they report the facts of such examination, and shew wherein the work agrees or disagrees with their contracts, and what portion of the money stipulated in their contracts shall now be paid to them; that they make return of their report to Thomas Turner Secretary & one of the Directors of this company as soon as practicable, and that Thomas Turner, immediately upon receiving such report, call a meeting of the Directors, to meet in Plymouth; And resolved that Aaron Harrison,³ or Wm F. Davenport,⁴ or Saml Davenport⁵ or any two of them be & they are hereby appointed for this purpose, and that they make the said examination & report as soon as practicable.

Resolved further; In case Aaron Harrison, or Wm F. Davenport, or (2) either of them, should decline such service, that Thomas Walker & Thomas Turner be & they are hereby authorized one or more persons in their stead; and that no delay be permitted in executing this resolution.

Resolved, if the obligers consent thereto, that James Satterthwaits⁶ note with Saml Clark⁷ surety for two shares of stock \$50, less by three instalments paid \$22, balance \$28; and Winfield Davis note with Harry Davis & Tho B. Adams surety for 1 share of stock \$25, less by three instalments paid \$11, balance \$14, be & the same are hereby passed to Major J Clark in part payment of his second payment for making lot of

²John G. Roulhac of Bertie County is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of five. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Bertie County, 25.

³Aaron Harrison is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of eight. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Washington County, 2.

⁴William F. Davenport of Washington County is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of eight. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Washington County, 8.

⁵Samuel Davenport of Washington County is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of eight. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Washington County, 12.

⁶James Satterswaite (not Satterthwaits) was the head of a household of eight in Beaufort County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 40.

⁷This might refer to Samuel Clark of Beaufort County, the head of a household of seven. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 11.

Road no 1; and that if the obligers consent not to this, Mr. Clark have leave to return the notes and take a credit for the same; and that the balance of Mr. Clarks 2d payment, be now paid to him.

Resolved on motion of Thomas Turner that the services now performed by him as Secretary & Treasurer, be separated and performed by two persons; that John G. Roulhac be & he is hereby appointed Treasurer, and that his duty as such be, to collect & pay the moneys which may be due to & owing by this corporation, as the same may be made known to him in writing by the Secretary; and that the duty of the Secretary (3) be to keep a record of the proceedings of this corporation, and their accounts, & to settle the accounts, and to state balances & give certificates of money due to or by the corporation, that the treasurer may pay or collect the same.

Resolved that each stockholder pay to the Treasurer on the Certificate of the Secretary four dollars on each share of stock subscribed by him, & that the same be paid forthwith.

A true copy

Th. Turner Sec^y

Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount

THURSDAY
PLYMO. Jan^y 21 1830

Dear Sir

On Sunday last M^r Walker ascertained that M^r Harrison could not go upon the survey of the road. And of Monday M^r Walker gave me this information in time for me to write by mail to the M^r Davenports—I wrote them accordingly that they were appointed & apprized them that it was expected they would immediately perform this service—and I did not fail to urge them to perform it at once. My letter reached the Post Office within 2 or 3 miles of their residence on the same day, and one of the M^r Davenports had told me previously, that he would attend the Post Office on that day in order to know if he were appointed—He had also told me, that if appointed, he & his brother (2) Sam^l would certainly perform the service without delay.

On Wednesday, to wit, yesterday the mail returned from that Post Office, and I expected a letter from them or one of them; but I received none; nor have I yet heard from them.

I expect they will let me hear from them in a few days—and that, in the mean time, they are preparing to leave home—

This is all the information I can give you on this subject. When I can I will give you more.

I have made out all the accounts of the Turnpike Company. I find the Company does not at this time owe a cent to any body, and that \$726.86 is due the Company, besides my own 1. 2. 3 & 4th Instalments & the moneys in my hands. I have certified (3) to M^r John G Roulhac the Treasurer the amount due by each individual, except the amt due by myself, so that he may proceed to collect the Same This \$776⁸⁶ you will observe includes the 4th Instalment of \$4 on each share.

As to my account, there are some small bills against me, & for which when paid, I shall be entitled to a credit. I will learn the amount of these shortly, and will then proceed to make out my account, as Treasurer (which is not easy done) & will certify it to M^r Roulhac, & cause the am^t due to be paid to him, if possible—of which I have no doubt—

I have said the Company owed not a cent to any body. I mean, there is not a cent due & payable at this time. M^r Ely has rec^d his first payment & is not yet entitled to his 2^d or any other. M^r J. G. Blount has rec^d his first paym^t & will no doubt (4) be presently entitled to his 2^d—M J Clark Esq^r has rec^d his 1st & 2^d payment, & will presently be entitled to his last. These are the only demands against the Company. All others are paid—

Please send this letter to M^r M J Clark. It will probably be agreeable to him to receive it.

Yours respfully
Th: Turner

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqre
Washington
N. C.

Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount

PLYMO Jan^y 21 1830

Dear Sir

'Tis just as I expected—M^r Sam^l Davenport, has just stepped in & says, He sent to the Post Office twice, once on Monday & once on tues-

day for my letter—and that the Post master sent him word both times that the letter had got misplaced—that he reckoned he had put it up with M^r Collins's & M^r Pettigrew's letters & papers & sent it to the Lake—

Some other business brought M^r Davenport to Town to day & he called to see me on this subject.

He says that on Monday next he must attend Tyrrel County Court, where he shall be detained all the week—That on (2) this day fortnight he & his brother will leave Plymouth for the Road—the weather permitting and no accident preventing.

You may therefore expect them at the road as soon as they can ride there from Plymouth from that time—and you will please let M^r Clark Know of the Same

Yours respfully
Th: Turner

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr
Washington
N. C.

John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount

BERTIE COUNTY Feb^y 16 1830

Mr John G Blount

Dear Sir Inclosed are Eighteen accounts including yours which I send you to assist me in collecting. I do not Know where the Gentlemen Live so address them personally—Mess^r J. B. Jassper⁸ & H W Gibbs a/cs according to a Memorandum at the foot have been demanded by M^r T H Smith & John Dixons⁹ by both Mr Smith & Mr Shaw—Will be much obliged to you for your assistance & would wish a mem^o at the bottom of each of those not paid of the name of the person who may make the demand to be used if necessary in Evidence—The a/^c amount in the whole to \$219—There will be a meeting of the Directors in March Court

⁸John B. Jasper is listed under Hyde County in the 1820 census as the head of a household of seven. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 4.

⁹This might refer to John Dixon, listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of six. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 13.

week at Plym^o during the Latter part of the week at which I should Like to hear from you of your progress I am directed to inquire of you if you have the Bond of Mr Turner & to request you if you (2) have, to Send it over by Mr Walker as it is tho^t by the Directors that is a Deficiency—The Bond was handed in at a meeting at washington at which time I tho^t it was deposited with Mr S. Clark to an application by Mr Walker he replies that he has it not nor does he Know who has it—The Directors feel considerable anxiety about it & wish to get it as the security wishes to pay the Balance which may be due by Mr Turner—

I am Sir very respectfully

Yr M O Ser^t J. G. Roulhac

(3) List of accounts inclosed to Mr John Blount & charged to his "Contingent account"

(viz)

Martin Davis	\$4	
Bartimeus Williams	16	p ^d JGB
Ja ^s Luth	4	
Tho ^s J Latham	4	
Richard Davis	4	
Everitt Davis	8	
Sam ^l Clark	40	
Dan ^l W Martin	4	4
		4
Jn ^o R Davis	4	28
		14
David Carter	4	15
		8
		<hr/> 73
Henry Davis	4	
Ja ^s G Everitt	8	
John B. Jasper	28	
H W Gibbs	14	
John Dixon	15	
John Davis 2 ^d	8	
Ja ^s Satchell	8	177
		28
		<hr/> 149
John G Blount	42	
Amounting in the whole	\$219-	
	42	
	<hr/> 177	
	73	
	<hr/> 146	

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington N.C.

Tho^s Walker Esq

Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount

PLYMO. feby 25 1830

John G Blount Esqr

Dear Sir

I give you annexed the report of Mess^{rs} Currell & Redditt,¹⁰ on your road—They have also reported on M^r Clarks road—I have this day written M^r John G Rouhac and requested him and his brother to attend at Plymo as soon as possible, to decide what shall be done in relation to the report, & yours & M^r Clarks demand for further payment—

As to their report on M^r Clarks road, they have in every particular, reported it to be made in strict & more than strick conformity with the contract, except that M^r Clark has not connected one end of the Bridge with the road at lot n^o 2.

By my reading of the contract M^r Clark should have done this. Whether, there is any agreement between you & him whereby you are to do it, I dont Know & have not heard—But this is a small job—& not equal to M^r Clark's extra work—

I have informed M^r Roulhac that you & M^r Clark are in a hurry to have the Directors to decide on the Report, & that we can have a meeting on any day he will come over; for if M^r Walker should be out of Town, we can (2) send for him.

My business presses me very much for time, for peace, for every thing—I have much writing to do—and must beg you to write M^r Clark the contents of this letter so far as the same relates to him—I cant do it—I am too much press^d & pulled & hauled

Yours respfully
Th Turner

(3) The said W^m Currell and William Redditt report as to work done by John G Blount Esqre on Lots of Road n^o 2 & n^o 3,

¹⁰William Currell and William Redditt are listed under Washington County in the 1820 census. Currell was the head of a household of eight and Redditt was the head of a household of nine. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Washington County, 1, 14.

That M^r Blount commenced in Lot n^o 2, not at the Bridge, but about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from it, at the back of his field, in the line of road cut down by M^r Sam^l Clark—He then run the road straight 638 poles,¹¹ when he found himself about fifty or sixty yards from the line of road cut down by M^r Clark; He then crooked the road so as to make it finally join the line of road cut down by M^r Clark, and run it from this crook about 180 poles where he is now stopped, and this brings him within 10 yards of the said line of road and makes 818 poles long, which, (as we measured the road from the field and not from the bridge) may, and perhaps will run a little into lot n^o 3—This road is thus made. A ditch on each side, 4 feet wide at top, 3 feet at bottom and 3 feet deep, and 16 feet of road is between them; and the ditches, until the road crooks as above are straight, and from the crook are straight, and are parrallel throughout. The dirt of the ditches has been thrown into the road, and has been spread from the middle of the road towards the sides of it, leaving it deepest in the middle, except a small part, where the dirt is not spread sufficiently, and where it will take about a weeks work of one man to spread it according the contract. Poles are laid in the road parrallel with the ditches, and about a foot from each ditch to Keep the dirt (4) in the road, and they seem to answer this purpose, except as to one pole which was moved, apparently by the dirt pressing it toward the ditch, and had the appearance of being lose. The trees roots and stumps in the road are cut down below the dirt, and are taken out of the ditches, and the ditches do so discharge themselves of water at this time (which about a commonly wet season) as that the water does not run on the road. No part of the road is cross logged, altho it runs perhaps, as before said, a little into lot n^o 3.

Upon the whole we say, that if the dirt was spread as before mentioned, 818 poles of the road, except so far as it may run into lot n^o 3 if any, are completed according to contract. If the 818 poles run any into lot n^o 3, so much as runs into it, requires cross logging to finish it. But lot n^o 2 is 880 poles long; and as 818 poles only are made, so lot n^o 2 is not finished, not only because it does not begin at the bridge, but because it is 62 poles short of 880.

Plymo feby 25 1830

Signed W^m Currell

Signed W^m Redditt

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr
Washington
N C

¹¹Though varying from locality to locality, a pole has been a form of lineal measure since at least 1440. As a statutory measure, a pole equals $5\frac{1}{2}$ yards or 16 feet. *Oxford English Dictionary*, VII, 1065, s.v., "Pole."

James H. Causten to John Gray Blount [printed copy]

WASHINGTON, MARCH 3^d 1830

Dear Sir:

I TAKE great pleasure in laying before you a copy of the report and bill which was presented to the Senate, on the 22^d ultimo, by Mr. Livingston, Chairman of the Select Committee to whom the several Memorials on the subject of Spoliations committed by the French, prior to the 30th of September 1800, was referred, in December last.

Upon the standing and zeal of the Chairman I had calculated largely; but not more so than his subsequent acts have fully sustained: neither the satisfactory shape in which the Report is made up, however, (and it is but just to that gentleman to state, that he kindly admitted every word of eighteen amendments, suggested by myself) nor the very liberal sum proposed in the Bill, as compared with that reported last winter, is regarded with so much interest as the unanimity of favorable sentiment in the committee—which, as Mr. Livingston assures me, prevails in the Senate so generally as to leave no doubt in his mind that the Bill will be sustained, and that a vote will be obtained thereon in that body within the present session of Congress. My own experience and judgment fully accord with this opinion. Indeed, the disclosure of the Official Documents, and the several Reports which have been made upon them, within the last few years, have so fully developed the obligation upon our Government to make satisfaction, that it is difficult to anticipate objections from any quarter, or if introduced, what colour of propriety they could be made to assume. Nevertheless, we cannot hope to pass through the ordeal without some opposition; but we have nothing to fear, having a large majority in our favor.

Those who have carefully examined the matter, generally unite with me in the opinion that the Claims amount, in the aggregate of net principal, to about from eight to ten millions of dollars; while others, who are less familiar with the details, as generally, but erroneously, swell the capital greatly beyond that sum.

To guard against the injurious result of such error, which would be seriously felt, as well in the discussion of the bill as in the vote upon it, and to make the subject palatable to all, the committee have determined to meet the claims in the shape of compromise; though I have in no degree countenanced such an idea on the part of the claimants. On the contrary, I hold that, while we consider the claims well founded and the Government solvent, we are bound to demand the whole sum due, especially since a proposition to compound on our part, would necessarily manifest a lack of confidence in the justice we assert. It is in the spirit

referred to that the claims have been and still are pursued. And while the bill is made to rest (without our consent) upon the basis of compromise, for the security of the Government, the claimants have their security on the other hand, as well in the equity of their case and the enduring principles of justice, as the efficacy of a protest (or memorial to Congress, of like virtue) which will save unimpaired all their rights—and perhaps, better still, they have additional security in the bill itself, which the following remarks may sufficiently elucidate:

The Bill provides for the creation of a Commission to decide upon the validity and amount of *all* the claims, which being accomplished, their functions will thereupon terminate, and then, the President is required, through some other channel, to make a *pro rata* distribution of the fund among the valid claims so ascertained.

The board being chosen by the Government, will bind the Government to its decisions; so that the difference between the valid claims so ascertained and the fund provided in the bill under consideration, will remain in the character of a residuary claim, confessedly due to the sufferers by the Government's own shewing. Those who had claims under the late Florida treaty, whether admitted or rejected, will readily appreciate the value and effect of this feature of the bill—it will deprive the commission of both temptation and power to compress the valid claims within the fund provided.

It is proper to add, that while every confidence may be entertained that the bill will pass the Senate within the present session of Congress, yet nothing can be attempted in the House of Representatives until the next session; not because of any unfriendliness to it, but because the bill must of necessity come there late in the session, and take its place upon the docket in the rear of much other business, and in consequence could not be reached. But in that case, as it would be the second session of the present Congress, the bill would next winter come up as unfinished business—and I doubt not be then passed into law. I know but little of the sentiments of the members of the House of Representatives though I do know that we have some fast friends there, but shall take especial care to provide for the proper reception of the bill by the time it shall reach that body.

I respectfully request that this letter may be used only by claimants—and I would most earnestly recommend that each and every sufferer who takes any interest in the issue of this matter, will *individually and forthwith* address his *Senators* (the being without a personal acquaintance is wholly immaterial, as it would be the exercise of an undoubted right) in a manner to awaken a perfect conviction that the subject is not regarded with indifference *at home*. I have done my duty here for the past seven years,

and now trust that the claimants will not withhold their aid, in the communications referred to, at this important crisis. It is not expected they should attempt to unfold the merits of the claims, unless they so please—but to simply manifest anxiety for the favourable result, and invite the attention of their Senators to promote it. The beneficial effect of such invitations, coming from all sections of the country simultaneously, and at the most interesting stage of the cause, can readily be appreciated.

You shall be kept advised of the further progress of this important business, and in the mean time, congratulating you on the favourable prospect before us, I remain,

Very Respectfully,
Your most obd. Servant,
 James H. Causten

To John G Blount Esq^r
 Washington N.C.

The above is intended for the Eye of only such as are interested

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r [Report and bill omitted]
 Washington, N.C.

Pleasant M. Miller to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE March 18th 1830

D Sir

I feel anxious that you should come to some arrangement with the children of your Brother William, not to do so must of course result in a law suit, in this suit I must of course take a professional part owing to the near relationship which subsist between us. the end of this suit is not easily foreseen it will be painful for me to be ingaged in a suit between persons so nearly related how this settlement is to be brought about is not for me to suggest, one thing is certain that they have it in their power to compell a Division of the Lands and another thing is equally certain that all just debts are chargeable on those lands these debts should form no objection to an amicable division the law is open to have them seized upon for any debt, they may be liable if you were to give all away it would be the best thing you ever done I know you dont want them—upon the supposition that there was a partnership between yourself

Thomas & William Blount, an enquiry into it could result in no good I am sure, this result might lead (2) to a claim of two thirds instead of one half this would lead to interminable difficulties. I earnestly entreat therefore that you will find out some way to bring it to a close & if they will not Settle your way Settle with them upon their own. I am perfectly certain none of them would knowingly ask for more than is right

Accept of my best wishes for your welfare and that of your household

P M Miller

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr
Washington
North Carolina

Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount

PLYMO Mar 27 1830

Dear Sir

Yours of the 25 is at hand this morning expressing some complaint that the Directors of the Turnpike Company have not decided on the report of Currell & Redditt—and urging that a decision be made.

I reply; that it is no fault of mine; for that as soon as the report was made, and in fact on the day it was returned, I wrote the Mess^{rs} Roulhac informing them of the fact & stated that M^r Walker & myself would meet them on any day they might think proper to come to Plymo

M^r J. G. Roulhac did not come to Plymo until some time in the week of and superior court, and M^r Jos. B. G. Roulhac did not come at all. I suppose M^r JG Roulhac intended to do all that was necessary (2) to be done at our Supr Court; & it would perhaps have been satisfactory to all if it had been then done. But behold I was then *more than fully employed* at other matters that *could not possibly* be postponed. It was known that I was clerk, and that in this county, the clk can do little more during court than his duties as such. These I did in such manner as to delay no person of his court business; and besides this, I wrote an answer of 80 pages, stating besides other matter 7 or 8 long accounts therein, to a most outrageous, false, and slanderous bill of Injunction that was *kept back & not served* upon me *until Monday afternoon of the Court week*. It was no easy job to write 80 pages & state these accounts in answer to a Bill of Injunction—Yet, by writing of nights & mornings (3) and *at the desk in court hours*

I *did it, and the clks duties also*, and did not commence it until tuesday morning. Thus engaged, I scarcely saw any one that week except he had business with me as clerk. I did not *breathe* on any other matter.

The next week I went to Bertie Supr Court—and I carried there & gave to M^r JG Roulhac the Report of Currell & Reddit for his examination—and since then [manuscript torn] have not heard from him

I am ready here at any moment to attend a meeting and decide upon what shall be done—I will delay nothing. At the next meeting I shall resign and deliver up all that I have—

M^r Roulhac is the Treasurer of the company and as such should hold my bond. I would you would send it to him that I may settle my account (4) and pay what I owe, & take up the bond.

Yours respfully
Th. Turner

I have always been in fav^r of calling for larger Dividends—and you seem now to think as I do. I shall vote to that effect at next meeting. I showed M^r Roulhac all your letters on the road

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esquire
Washington

Thomas Turner to John Gray Blount

PLYMO April 14 1830

Dear Sir

I wrote M^r Roulhac at the time of the report of Currell & Reddit, that a meeting should be held; that I was here on the spot, and M^r Walker at hand, and that a meeting could be held when ever he would come over; and I added that you & M^r Clark were anxious to have your matters disposed of—M^r Roulhac came over at our superior Court; But it so happend that I could not that week attend to it: for besides that I was clk, I had to write an answer to a Bill in Equity, which I did that week to the extent of 80 pages, and which occupied me, not only of nights & mornings but during Court hours. my duty as clk (2) during that Court was one man's tassk at any time: but that answer is a job for 2 weeks of any man, not acquainted as I was with the facts. I could not attend the meeting that week. Indeed I had no time, in that week to fetch breath.

The next week was Bertie Supr Court, when I again mentioned the necessity of a meeting of M^r Roulhac & stated I would attend at any time except the week of Chowan Supr Court—And during Chowan Supr Court I again wrote to him & stated that I was ready at any time, and that as M^r Walker is at hand, a meeting can be held whenever M^r R will come over. I have again (3) to day wrote M^r R to the same effect—

I give you this statement that you may not suppose I am negligent of this matter—At the next meeting, I shall resign & give over all that I have of the Company's—

M^r R. Says you wish to know the surety of John B Jasper—I have looked and it is Lewis Tyson

Yours truly
Th. Turner

Addressed: M^r John G Blount
Washington
N.C.

Report on a Meeting of the Plymouth Turnpike Company

Copy

PLYMOUTH April 24 1830

At a meeting of the Directors of the Plymouth Turnpike Company at Thomas Turners office in Plymouth on the 24th April 1830—Present Thomas Walker John G Roulhac & Thomas Turner

It was

Resolved

upon the report of William Redditt & William Currell dated the 25th Feb^y 1830 that John G Blount, if Lots N^{os} 2 & 3 be considered as one contract has not executed one half of it, and if they be considered as 2 contracts, that he has not executed N^o 2 and has done nothing on no 3. and that he proceed & execute both Contracts.

Resolved further, that, notwithstanding the nonexecution of said contracts by Mr Blount, the Treasurer pay him the Sum of Eight Hundred & forty nine Dollars, the price for making road in Lot N^o 2 except so much of said sum as he has already recieved and except his 4th Instalment of Stock—

(2) Resolved further that all the money heretofore paid to J G Blount be considered as so much paid him in part of the \$849 mentioned in Resolution on the other page, and paid on Lot no. 2—

Resolved that John G Blount be & he is hereby appointed & authorized to receive the Bridge of Mr M. J. Clark, when he shall connect the same with the road at Lot N^o 2 agreeably to his contract and that Mr Blounts certificate to Mr Clark that the Bridge & Road are so connected shall discharge M^r Clark of his contract—

Resolved that, upon the report of Currell & Redditt dated 25 Feb^y 1830 the road made by M J Clark be received off his hands as executed agreeably to contract Except that M. J. Clark is to connect the Bridge with the road at Lot N^o 2. which is not done & which part of his contract is not taken off his hands—

Resolved further that the Treasurer pay M J Clark Three Hundred & fifty Dollars the Balance due him & that Mr Clark proceed & finish his contract by connecting the Bridge & the road within some short time—

(3) Resolved that each Stockholder pay a further and a fifth Instalment of Ten Dollars on each Share of Stock Held by them, & that the Treasurer proceed & collect the same forthwith, which when paid will be in full of the Stock Subscribed in the Plym^o Turnpike Company—

Resolved further that if the contracts for Executing Lots n^o 2 & 3 by John G. Blount & for Executing Lots of Road no 4 & 5 by H. Ely be not executed & completed according to the tenor of them, that John G Roulhac bring suit upon their contracts against them, & resolved that Mr Roulhac delay to bring these suits or not as he shall judge best for the Interest of this Corporation & he is hereby invested with sufficient discretion & authority to bring suit or not as he shall Judge proper

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington NC

John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount

BERTIE COUNTY 26th Apl 1830

John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

Inclosed I send you the resolutions of the Directors of the Plym^o Turnpike Company which have reference to your Contracts Your account as they directed to be made out have reference only to Lot of Road N^o 1—I have also Inclosed a copy of your a/c taken from the Secretarys Book to which I have added the am^t of accts sent you in Feb^y Last And given you credit for the am^t directed to paid you in the inclosed Resolutions which shows deducting the am^t of accts Sent you (\$219) a Balance due you of

\$42.75—The a/c of J B Jasper I suppose, as it will not be shortly collected, you will not wish to take yet, in that case the Balance to be paid you will be fifty seven 75/100 Dollars which sum is in hand & will be paid to your order as soon as you can get it here—

The Directors have appointed you their agent to inspect & Receive the Bridge & Road of Mr Clark (2) when he Shall have finished it & give Mr Clark a certificate of discharge—

The desire to pay the contractors as well as to secure the debts for stock has induced the Directors to call for an Instalment of Ten Dollars on each Share which is the whole amount now uncalled for—I trust Long before the day of completion to have money enough to pay all that come & if we have to set up the untouched contract on this side to be able to go with the market with money in hand

By the Last resolution you will see that the Directors do not expect to meet again during this year of their service they have accordingly provided for whatever may happen which I trust will remain a dead Letter in the minute Book.

By a resolution passed in the year 1827 it was ordered that the contractors be paid $\frac{1}{4}$ part of money on commencing their work on each Lot—

The Directors having directed all which heretofore had been paid you to be applied to Lot N^o 2 I have to (3) inform you that if you have commenced on Lot N^o 3. you are entitled to $\frac{1}{4}$ of what you bid it off at which I believe is \$375; I have great pleasure in informing you that that sum is also in hand & will be subject to your order whenever you Let me Know that is due—There may be other acc^{ts} of those I sent you which you may not wish to take if so it will add to the am^t to be paid you on N^o 2 more perhaps than I have money Just now to pay for after paying you \$375 & Mr Clark \$350 there will remain on hand only about \$100 to pay the Bal^c on No 2. I hope however that you will take all except perhaps Jaspers

I am very respectfully your

M O Sert J. G. Roulhac

I believe Mr Walker generally presides at our meetings—

[No address]

Edward Livingston to John Gray Blount

MONTGOMERY PLACE 26 June 1830

D^r Sir

A person in Philada. has requested to me to ask some information relative to a tract of 100,000 acres of land conveyed by you to David Allison and by Allison to him—y^r Deed is Dated 17 June 1796 and describes the land as lying in the Counties of Hyde & Tyrrel.

A line to me designating the general value of the land and whether it has been sold for taxes or is burthened with any will be thankfully recd

Please to Direct to me at Red Hook N. Y.

Yours respectfully
Edw Livingston

John G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington N^o C^a

Joseph B. Hinton to William Augustus Blount

ROSETTA July 10 1830

Gen^l W. A. Blount

Dear Sir,

I understand that you are still in doubt whether I am a candidate for Congress or not. Rest assured that I am not a Candidate for that honour—& my mind must undergo an exceeding great change, if I ever am. True it is I have had many & flattering solicitations & from divers quarters to become a candidate but I told the people in Edgecomb & in Pitt that I am not a Candidate—I tell every body so who speak with me upon that subject—I do more I tell them that as far as I am informed I consider *you*, the Beaufort Candidate. The way is certainly open for you—how long it may remain so I cannot tell but *if you work it right*—your success is certain, I think. I hope this letter will not be, by you set down to the account of unusual artfulness as I understood the one I wrote you last year was—I was Sincere in that—I am so now—but for an occurrence of yesterday, it is probable I should not have ventured a

Second letter upon the subject of your political promotion—that, was this—two citizens were at my House shortly after a letter reached me from a gentleman of high Standing & influence, (2) urging me to become one if I was not—a candidate for Congress—I read it to them—& they said they intended to tell you—& fearing that they would not, with it, tell you what I said—viz that Gen^l Blount might rest easy on my account—I write this that you may be assured that I am not encouraging any to hope that I will enter the Canvass. Indeed I know not why I should desire the representative trust in any deliberative body—and believe I can honestly say, that I am doing violence to both my feelings & interests in seeking it again for the Legislature:¹² my own affairs claim all my time & attentions, & unless these can better afford it, my public life will be brief. I may be pardoned if I add, that I think you don't act wisely in your course—your plan somewhat varied might prevent competition—at all events throw the charge of *opposition* to other doors—& make assurance more sure.

Respectfully yours,
Jos. B. Hinton

Addressed: Gen^l W^m A. Blount
Washington
N^o C^a

David Barnes to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH July 17th 1830

M^r John G Blount

Dear Sir,

In the month of May last I was in Burke County, and in the town of Morganton I was introduced to M^r John Brown of Pennsylvania agent for Cathcart, whith whom I had a confidential conversation relative to your Land's in the western part of this State—M^r Brown thinks them worth much more than he expects you do, and he is led to this conclusion from the fact of your paying so little attention to them. M^r B. thinks you have given up a large quantity for taxes which it is probable was not sold ac-

¹²Hinton did not campaign for the 1831 state Senate, but he again represented Beaufort County in that body in 1832. See 1827, n. 15.

according to Law and that you can with justice take the possession of them again. This he finds to be the situation of a part of the Lands of Cathcart. M^r Brown thinks you had better have an agent to attend to your Land's who can devote at least most part of his time in securing and selling of them (if you wish to sell). M^r B. says he is well acquainted with the location of your Land's and thinks he can with ease identify them. M^r Brown says if you do not wish to send an agent as he has advis'd that he will act for you if you can agree. I have (2) ever since my return from Burke intended to visit Washington when I could have made this communication to you—and I have not given out that intention provided I can do so without serious inconvenience to myself.

With a tender of my best wishes for you and yours

I am
Very Respectfully
Your obt Serv^t
David Barnes

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

Joseph B. Hinton to William Augustus Blount

ROSETTA July 28th 1830

Dear Sir,

About a week ago, your reply to my note, dated 8 or 10 days previously, was handed to me. Many concerns were then crowding upon me & soon afterwards I had to leave home, so that until now, I have scarcely had leisure to write a response to your reply.

You desire me to be more particular—& you claim of my friendship, any suggestions, which to my mind, may appear useful to you. I will comply with your request, but promise first, that my only purpose in writing was to assure you, that in me, you had rather a friend, than a *rival*—unless indeed unkindness on your part, put friendship from me, out of the question. I certainly am not, nor have I any wish to enter the arena, as a candidate for Congress—and to quiet any suspicions you may entertain of my motives, I as frankly say, that while I rejoice to find among the freemen of the Country, many warm friends, I have no wish

to be a political leader—nor do I expect to dabble much longer in politics. I have no private views to subserve—but wish to close my business & in the quiet vale of life, & retired from the conflicts of party, and the strife of men, be in quiet repose with my little family. This, is at all events, what I wish—whatever circumstances (2) may compel me hereafter, to do.

I think you have but two things to do, to ensure you congressional honors—one is to vascillate no longer—but announce yourself a candidate: that understood, it will keep down some aspirants, & if you have an opposition, it would be opposition to *you* & would serve to *unite* your forces. The other thing that you have to do, to be successful, is to act wisely, by this I mean—act *prudently*—make all the friends you can, & make no needless enemies. It is certainly true, that in this County, many who were formerly your friends are alienated & if arrayed with those ever opposed to you, a very formidable opposition would meet & dispute the ground with you in Beaufort. But now is the time to conciliate—excite no new prejudices & mollify the old wounds—thus, new strength will fortify your claims. I do not believe any other candidate except J W Clark¹³ will appear on the turf—You can beat him if you manage it right: But look here—any other course than a *strictly neutral* one, in our county election would do you injury if the ardent support given to M^r Singletary has not already injured you. I say not so from unfriendliness to him. (3) Oh no! I perhaps, might have voted for him—but there is no chance, he will be beaten & beaten largely, support him as your family may—he cannot, no, nor can his Pitt connexions make good the losses to you, that Such a Support would cost you. I *know*, & there fore speak as I do. Beside, unless my information (& it is from a creditable source) be incorrect, Dr. Williams's family would go for J W Clark, were *he* your opponent!! You have it in your power to rally a powerful vote in Beaufort, imprudence would cut it down prodigiously. I tell you again, he will be beaten—nor do I see any thing truly useful to you, but what the Successful candidates would cheerfully accord to you. A petty fish quarrell for a few more or a few less fish, ought not to weigh against mightier interests: & beside, perhaps, if some pains be taken, that matter may yet be compromised on equal terms to all parties—force, will not do, but pursuasion might. I am willing to try what can be effected, that will not injure your pecuniary interests—preserve the friendship of the people & at the same time satisfy them. As a public man, keep aloof from the little strifes of the day—conciliate all—and you may & will acquire the honors,

¹³For James West Clark see 1827, n. 26.

which your fellow citizens will confer on you. This is my (4) idea of the matter. As our correspondence was for *your* satisfaction I must ask that it be by you considered *confidential*.

Yours respectfully
Jos. B. Hinton

I have no objection to your father & brother reading this.

Genl W. A. Blount.

Addressed: Gen^l W^m A Blount
Washington

Robert Love to John Gray Blount

WAYNESVILLE 8th September 1830

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir/ Your Letter of the 10th Ul^t is to hand, and I view its contents—I expect to be in Raleigh on the 11th or 12th of Nov^r Next, God willing, at which time I expect to bring on for your use Ten or fifteen head of horse creatures perhaps more or somewhat less, and have given notice to have as many of them Mares as possible—I am happy to hear that the Mares taken on last are pleasing—I would be Glad if it suited your convenience to be at Raleigh at the time above set forth, notwithstanding I know the peculiar hardship which as old a man as you are will undergo in a Journey of the distance from where you live to Raleigh, yet I am very desirous of seeing you, not expecting that we may ever [be] favoured with another opportunity. The season will not from the time of year be very unfavourable I hope

When we meet if it is the will of providence I will Explain to you, what you may have heard from Col^o Brown's account of any of your Lands, being subject to any Claim otherwise than what I exercise the right over with assiduity

My wife has been Very much indispos'd for two or three years with some inward complaint incident to many Elderly females, and I have been myself much Troubled this & the last Summer with a bad Bowell complaint—

I have you enjoy reasonable health, and more than (2) that is rear to be found in old age, or at least I find it so—we have had a Severe

Drought this Summer untill Laterly, more So than I ever remember to have Seen in this Country, our Stream have become Very weak so much so that the inhabitants can be Scarcely kept in Bread, waggons & Carts have come to my Mill over 20 Miles—

I am with deu respect your ob^t Serv^t &c

R^o Love

My best wishes to your Sons &c

R^o Love

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Town of Washington
Beaufort County
N^o Carolina

John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount

WINDSOR 21st Sept 1830

Dear Sir

Yours of the 12th Inst came to hand a few days ago and seize the first opportunity that offers to inclose you the notes of all the subscribers who it is probable may have to be warranted or who Live at any distance from you, so that when they pay you can give them their notes—

The Directions I received at the Last meeting of Directors (though not embodied in a Resolution) were, that all the sums due were to be collected forthwith & that those who did not pay for being called on were to be warranted & the money collected it was hoped in time to meet the engagement with the Contractors—I wish you to act in all the cases as it shall seem best to you for the Interests of both the company & Contractors—warrant all that may be necessary (2) I have engaged a couple of men to go over at any time you may let me know that you & M^r Clark are ready to have the road examined at which time I hope to have the money ready to pay you off—I am collecting by Law—

As they will go through, over Mr Elys, I intend if I can leave home to go with them & will let you know in time—

Mr Elys part comes on very slowly & if the weather should get colder than usual he will not be able to get it done this fall, should the weather turn some what warmer & continue so till winter I think it probably that he will be done—

I am very respectfully your
Most ob^t Sert J. G. Roulhac

(3) List of Notes payable to the Plym^o Turnpike Company Sent by John G. Roulhac to John G. Blount to collect

(viz) David W Martins note for 1 share		\$ 25
John Dixon	1	25
Henry W Gibbs	1	25
Henry Davis	1	25
Jas G Everitt	2	50
Everitt Davis	2	50
John R Davis	1	25
Martin Davis	1	25
Richard Davis	1	25
John Davis 2 nd	2	50
Tho ^s J Latham	1	25
David Carter	1	25
James Luth	1	25
James Satchwell	2	50
		<u>\$450</u>

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington NC

John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount

WINDSOR 7th Oct 1830

John G Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

I have enclosed you at the Request of my Brother a notice to be published in the Washington Paper till the middle of next month for the printings of which you will do me the favour to pay & charge to the Company or I will repay you when we meet or settle—

I have observed that we omitted to have any ditches cut across the Road which are certainly necessary on the western part if not on the other, as after you get half a mile in the pressure of water is from south

to north—Several of the smaller Branches which form Coneby Creek crossed the Line cut down by Mr Clark nearly at right angles—What effect backing so much water on Land with no solid foundation will by next Spring be clearly seen & I fear will do much Injury to the road—The road too is I think too narrow; It will be with both danger and difficultys that carriages of any kind can pass (2) one another when they meet—To make the road easy & convenient to be travelled is the only way to make it profitable & without some facilities being added to it none will use it that can avoid it—And as the Company have not the means to add anything to it (neither can it raise anything by Individual subscription) we think on this side that we ought to apply to the Legislature for a farther subscription of 40 or 50 shares that we may be enabled to build some sort of recess every Two or Three Hundred Yards that travellers may pass without trouble & that ditches across if necessary may be cut & in short do all that may be necessary to make it a good safe & convenient Road—I think the Legislature might be induced to grant the necessary sum if were but to save what had been already expended, putting the general good entirely out of the Question—

I hope if you approve our plan that you & Mr Clark will come over to Plym^o to the Election that every thing necessary may be done in full meeting of the Directors as early as possible

(3) I have been expecting for several days to hear that your contracts were done. I do not yet despair of seeing Gates across the road before the 1 Jany. 1831 as I understand Mr Ely wants only a Quarter of a mile of being through & that Mr Clark spoke to him of working on his when he had compleated that which he had taken of you

I am very respectfully

yr M O Sert
J. G. Roulhac

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington, N.C.

James H. Causten to John Gray Blount

BALT Nov 30 1830

John G Blount Esq
Washington N.C.

Dear Sir:

I am making interest for our spoliation claims through publications in the public prints by short essays, and to disguise their source cause them to be printed in various quarters and thence spread—the inclosed slips are the two first of the series, which will be followed by many others—may I ask of your kindness to have them copied into your papers and to send slips to Fayetteville and elsewhere in your state as you may deem best.

I send you this day a copy of a pamphlet I prepared last winter, but suppressed because it reflected on the Livingston family, which I feared would not be agreeable to our ardent friend Mr Senator Livingston. I send you this copy in strict confidence that it shall not go to the public.

I shall go to Washington on tuesday next with a very flattering prospect.

With much respect, I am, D Sir,
Yr most ob Svt
James H. Causten

Please send me a paper containing the essays when printed.

[No address]

James H. Causten to John Gray Blount

BALTIMORE Dec 7 1830

John G Blount Esq
Washington N.C.

Dear Sir:

I have the pleasure to send you slips of the two last numbers of “Justitia” which I hope it will be agreeable to you to cause to be copied into your papers—and into such other papers in your state as may be most noted.

With much respect, I am, D Sir,

Your most ob Ser^t
James H. Causten

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

*John Gray Blount to Joseph B. Hinton*¹⁴

WASHINGTON December 13th 1830

Joseph B Hinton Esq^r

Sir

Yours of the 3^d Instant did not arrive here until yesterday morning then via New Bern I immediately assembled the Commissioners of the Town & several others of the influential Inhabitants & communicated to them the Contents

The Commissioners promptly determined to double the night watch; to forbid meetings of the negroes at all times except to hear white Preachers & not them of nights; (but first to request the Preachers of all denominations to suppress it themselves but to do it at all events And I have pleasure in saying it was promptly ordered by all the Churches.) to take measures to disarm all persons of colour within the Town & to send an address to a select few in every Captains Company of the County urging the same measures which if not justified by Law it is expected *will be by a Law to be passed this Assembly*

From present appearances everything may be expected from our Commissioners which they can do. Col^o Bonner has dispatched circulars to the several Captains of militia of the County commanding immediate

¹⁴This letter comes from the Legislative Papers, 1830-1831, L.P. 458, North Carolina State Archives. David Walker, a black abolitionist, published *Appeal in Four Articles*, which appeared in North Carolina in 1830. This abolitionist statement provoked a strong reaction by whites, even against Quakers whose manumission activities had been tolerated since 1808. The appearance of a Quaker preacher from New York espousing abolitionist views was enough to cause John Gray Blount to write Joseph Hinton, his friend in the state Senate, and enough for Hinton to ask the legislature to pass stricter laws against abolitionist activity. Guion Griffis Johnson, *Ante-Bellum North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1937), 460-461, 572-573, hereinafter cited as Johnson, *Ante-Bellum North Carolina*.

private musters for the purpose of a strict examination of the Arms required by Law & to require their being order[ed] for service at a moments notice And as the Law at present does not require of the militia other equipments or Amunition he recommends an immediate supply of them, stating the times to be such as to require them.

The Washington Guards had mustered the day before & made (2) such a display of stringth & disscipline as must put a damper on the hopes of all seditious persons present; there was [illegible] under arms but not prepared with Amunition; The information rec^d by your Letter has caused the Captain to call them together this morning they are now under Arms & will be instructed to be prepared with 20 rounds of Cart-ridges in case of an alarm of fire to appear there fully equiped.

The Commissioners of the Town this morning dispatch a Waggon to Raleigh for such portion of the public Arms as will be assign'd to this place including them for which an order has been given to the Captain of the Guards And that the Waggon may not be delayed it may be well that this information be given the Governor as I expect they will be packed and sent at the expense of the State & this step is taken by the Commissioners to take a part the trouble off the hands of the Officer that may be appointed to that duty & that they may be sooner supplied, And I think no time should be lost for we had here on Saturday night last a Quaker who preached in the Methodist Meeting House to a Congregation composed amongst others of many Slaves & his observations were highly Seditious & nevertheless suffered to pass unnoticed He left here early nixt morning for New Bern where I hope he will meet his deserts and had it been generally know[n] that he had so preached he would have had cause to remember Washington Good has before now come out of evil & I hope will again The present movements may convince our Legislature of the necessity of a well armed & well regulated militia our disscipline has always been too slack as has also been that amongst Slaves. if we expect to exist much (3) less rule. We have no information here from n^o of us or of any insurrectionary movements in our neighbourhood

In much haste
your most Obed^t
JG Blount

Addressed: Joseph B Hinton Esquire
Raleigh

*John Gray Blount to Joseph B. Hinton*¹⁵

WASHINGTON December 14th 1830

Joseph B Hinton Esquire

Sir

Since writing you yesterday in haste via New Bern I have conversed with several persons who were present when the Quaker I then mentioned preached or held forth, They all agree that his observations respecting our Slaves were highly improper and most of them say he used the following strong language "that the Slaves of the South were a degraded & oppressed People that the just judgment or vengeance of God was now hanging over the heads of their masters on account of it and that the time would soon come when they would all be free"

How far such observations may be punishable by our existing Laws the Legislature are competent to judge & to make such as are. This Quaker I understand is from new york (& is a Hixite whos distinguishing opinions you probably know better than myself) which connected with another circumstance which yesterday arrived makes things appear more susspitious

There arrived here from new york in one of our coasting Vessells a negro well cloathed & with plenty of money who says he belongs to a man in Columbia S.C. that he run away from his master there who got him by marriage and refused to let him visit his wife, that he traveled through north Carolina & Virginia to Baltimore where he took shiping for new york & from there wrote that he would return if any Person would purchase him who would permit him to see his wife That his misstresses Brother bought him as he wrote him & sent him a pass to come home A Copy of which you have herewith (2) The original is in my possession & appears to be written, signed and witnessed all in the same hand writing On my asking for the Letter which accompany'd the pass he had neglected to bring that

He is apparently young & healthy but has within the last few days become so lame from a real or pretended soreness in his feet that he can scarcely walk. From all which susspitious circumstances and the extraordinary one of his coming to this place to get to Columbia when there is scarcely a week when Vessells are not passing from new york to Charleston & also the additional one of his pass fixing the 1st of January for him

¹⁵This letter, dealing with the same subject as the December 13 letter, also comes from the Legislative Papers, 1830-1831, L.P. 458, North Carolina State Archives.

to be at Columbia which would make it seem necessary for him to be in motion about Christmass, the time when Slaves have the greatest latitude and he could best communicate to them his business

I committed him to Jail as I should have done the Quaker had I known about his preaching before he left here and have written to Columbia for information respecting the negro and now communicate the whole to you as one of the Committee of safety as it may prove to be a link in the Chain of discovery & prove the necessity of more rigid Laws

I am in haste respectfully

yours JG Blount

(3) Copy of the pass

South Carolina Rutland District October 23^d 1830

The bearer Antony having absconded from William Aikin his master of Fairfield District S.C. I Samuel Y Stitt having bought him conditionally from the said W^m Aikin and geting information I have I have sent this as a passport for him to return to me at Columbia Rutland District S.C. in what way he may choose and before the first of January 1831. All persons are hereby prevented from interrupting the said Antony in his way to Columbia and are forbid to stop him unless for missbehaviour until he returns to the said place where I now reside Signed by my hand writing this 23^d of Oct^r 1830

Samuel Pladny
Witness

Samuel Y Stitt

Addressed: Joseph B Hinton Esq^r
Raleigh

Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount

Dec^r 20th 1830

Dear Sir:

Yesterday your favour of the 14th came to hand & that of the 13th the day before.

I am glad that all people are meeting the crisis so handsomely. A *crisis* was undoubtedly approaching—it may now be in check perhaps: yet, vigilance is important

Last night, an express arrived here from Hillsboro' for arms—On Saturday a negro woman, in an ill-humor told some white children she had in charge, that she would soon be freed from all trouble of them: that the negroes were to rise & kill all the white men—some of the handsomest of the white women would be spared for wives for the leaders. An alarm was consequent on this disclosure & 100 stand of arms was this morning sent them. Some suspicious circumstances leads to the belief that an attempt has been meditated on the arsenal in this city & to day a bill has passed authorizing the distribution of all the arms at the different depots of the 1000 at Edenton, Washington gets a part.¹⁶

I read some parts of your letters to the Senate & had them referred to the Committee upon that subject. (2) Even Gen^l McKay¹⁷ who has heretofore been skeptical & said it had all been the idle dreams of old women—to day, stated to the Senate, he believed “the Cloud was thickening.”

Strong measures are now progressing here—& I know not where we shall stop. A Committee was charged with an examination of & report upon the Acts for arming, disciplining & calling out the militia.

On Friday, the Revolutionary soldier Genl Stokes¹⁸ was elected Governor & to day, Mr Mhoon¹⁹ of Bertie was elected Treasurer.

Yours truly,
Jos B Hinton

Jno Gray Blount Esq^r
Intendant of Washg

Addressed: Jno Gray Blount Esq^r
Washg

¹⁶The 1830 General Assembly, reacting to the widespread fear of a slave conspiracy, increased the severity of punishment for convicted slaves, expanded the slave patrollers' authority, and authorized the distribution of arms to all counties requesting them. Johnson, *Ante-Bellum North Carolina*, 518-519.

¹⁷James Iver McKay (1792-1853), a lawyer from Bladen County, served as a state senator (1815-1819, 1822, 1826, 1829-1830), the United States district attorney for North Carolina (1817), and in the United States Congress (1831-1849), where he was chairman of the ways and means committee. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1380; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 37; *Who Was Who*, 418.

¹⁸Montfort Stokes of Wilkes County, a Revolutionary War veteran, was twice elected governor of North Carolina (1830, 1831), defeating Richard D. Spaight for that office in 1830. A staunch Jacksonian, he served numerous terms in the North Carolina legislature and was a United States senator. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 161, 239-295 passim, 669, 673-675; Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 4, 6, 27, 34.

¹⁹William S. Mhoon, who was elected to the treasurer's post in 1830, was from Bertie County and had represented that county in the House of Commons since 1828. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 181, 291, 293, 295.

Joseph B. Hinton to John Gray Blount

RAL. No CA
23^d Decr 1830

Dear Sir,

The cloud thickens: news from divers quarters, of an alarming character flows in upon us. Yesterday Colo Joseph Williams²⁰ rec^d letters from the Scotland Neck Country informing him of extraordinary insubordination, there among the blacks. I have just heard, now 8 o Clock at night, that an alarm exists in Pittsboro & that their express for arms has arrived—the particulars I have not yet ascertained. Judg Cameron²¹ informs us this Evg. that a fellow calling himself a preacher, was detected yesterday or day before at Chappel Hill inviting the negroes to meet him privately after night about one mile distant, he & the blacks actually assembled & Dr Caldwell²² & some of the students found it out, & went & found him inflaming the worst passions of human nature—& from his baggage he was suspected, & charged with having Walkers pamphlets²³—unfortunately he effected his escape—villain as he is with a white skin—& calling himself a preacher. (2) So great is the uneasiness here, that the arsenal was this day examined & will be guarded—& the City Guards, it is understood will be nightly under arms—at least for the present. The old presbyterian Negro preacher here,²⁴ a man of education and of fine character, was called before the Committee a few days since & interrogated: he said if any insurrectionary movement was *now* in-

²⁰Joseph J. Williams represented Martin County in the North Carolina legislature numerous times between 1817 and 1831. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 271-272, 287, 289, 291-292, 294.

²¹Duncan Cameron (1777-1853), an able lawyer of Orange County, served as clerk of the Court of Conference (1800) and represented his county in the House of Commons (1802, 1806-1807, 1812-1813) and state Senate (1819, 1822-1823). From 1814 to 1816 Cameron was a judge of the superior court and later was elected president of North Carolina's state bank (1829-1849). Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, III, 43-48; Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 245, 252, 254, 262, 264, 274, 279, 281, 360; Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 417.

²²Joseph Caldwell (1773-1835) became president of the University of North Carolina in 1804, serving until 1835. He promoted railroads, internal improvements, and education in an effort to push North Carolina out of its notorious lethargy. Ashe, *History of North Carolina*, II, 162, 374; Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 249, 289, 303-304, 313, 318, 345; Wheeler; *Historical Sketches*, I, 118.

²³For David Walker see 1830, nn. 14, 16.

²⁴This is probably a reference to John Chavis, a black Presbyterian preacher educated at Princeton and licensed to preach by the Orange Presbytery of North Carolina. He preached frequently to white congregations, but he was best known as a missionary to the slaves. He also seems to have conducted a school in Raleigh for free Negro children. He died in 1838. Johnson, *Ante-Bellum North Carolina*, 609-610.

tended he did not know of it—but he said he knew enough to say, it was time the white people were looking about them & putting themselves in preparation for the event, for they would need all they could do, one of these days. Dr Hunt the presbyterian Clergyman of this City, who has taken great interest in the colonization cause, was advised by Gov Owen to write to an intelligent free man of Bladen County to go out, & take charge of 400 blacks that are preparing to go to Liberia—as a principal man in the colony. He wrote for answer that he would not go & the people of Colour were fools to go—that if the United States would free the negroes & give them a territory for them (3) to colonize within their limits—or in Canada—they would go there—if they would give them no freed territory—they must free the negroes & admit them to all the rights of Citizens & amalgamate with the whites without distinction—or the whites must take their certain doom—for come sooner or later it would be said. Very nearly the identical views & language of Walkers pamphlet. We are on a mine, it would appear—the match, I hope will be snatched from the destructive hand.

To day election for counsellors of State came on. I had prepared the enclosed yesterday—and it took with all with whom I conversed: but my colleague Williams, is displeased with Major Blount²⁵ & refused to unite in it & commenced electioneering for *you*. I knew almost to a certainty that at your time of life, you would hardly ride to Raleigh, if you could be made Governor of the State: & he took an early opportunity to nominate you in the Commons. I saw it would fail, unless I went to work, accordingly I stated to the Senate that you was a Soldier of the Revolution—patriotic & experienced—and your (4) name & services as a member of the Legislature were inscribed on its Journals, before most of us were born: that in this time of uneasiness along the Seaboard, it was proper that one of the Council should be chosen from our Section & in this Opinion Gov Stokes fully concurred—I say I found it would fail—and for this reason, all who knew you took it for granted you would not accept but on Williams' agreeing if you refused to serve, he would not oppose substituting Major Thos. H Blount for you, I prevailed on every man I think in the Senate to vote for you & several in the Commons.

I have no idea that you will—and that you would feel as much honored in your sons election as in the election of yourself—If you decline the honor, write me immediately & we will substitute Major Blount—the balloting resulted in the election of four of the seven—yourself one of the

²⁵This reference is to Thomas Harvey Blount.

four. I take it for granted that Major Blount will accept if he should be elected. *Williams* has amended the fish bill, to hang up at sun set of saturday night.

Yours Jos. B Hinton

(5) P. S. The Bank bill vote was to night reconsidered—its fate is very uncertain.

Many days since, I sent the amended town Law to the Commons—Mr Williams keeps it strangely back from its last reading in that house. He has sent me a bill exempting all the Dist of Goose Creek from serving as Jurors—I cannot consent to it if he holds back the Town bill until I expect its fate will be indefinite postponement.

Yours

Jos B Hinton

Addressed: Jno. G. Blount Esq.
Washington
N^o C^a

John Gray Blount to Joseph B. Hinton

WASHINGTON December 28th 1830

Joseph B Hinton Esquire

Dear Sir

Understanding that I have been elected one of the Council of State²⁶ I take the earliest opportunity to request that you will inform the Gen^l Assembly that I feel grateful as well for the honour done me in that appointment as the manner of doing it And that my feelings admonish me that at my advanced age I cannot discharge the duties of that appointment I must therefore decline accepting of it. I think it proper to inform them immediately as they may have time to appoint some other person which the times seem to require

²⁶The Council of State, chosen by the legislature, was authorized by a provision in the North Carolina Constitution of 1776 to confer with the governor, who needed the council's advice and consent to initiate the limited constitutional powers allowed the governor. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 813; William S. Powell, *North Carolina* (New York: W. W. Norton Co., 1977), 67.

I am with much respect

Your most Obed^t
J G. Blount

Addressed: Joseph B. Hinton Esquire
Raleigh

1831

Joseph B. Hinton to the Speaker of the Senate [copy]

3 Jan. 1831

Hon the Speaker of the Senate

Pursuant to the enclosed request of Jno Gray Blount Esq^r (lately elected one of the Counsellors of State) I now respectfully make known to the Senate and House of Commons, that he declines accepting said appointment. Deeply sensible of his obligations for the honor thus conferred upon him, when he neither sought nor expected it—he returns his unfeigned thanks. There breathes not a truer patriot, nor one more entirely Carolinian in all his feelings & attachments than M^r Blount: but at the advanced age of nearly eighty years he must needs desire repose & retirement from the cares & fatigues of public life.

Permit me here to suggest that the times require that one of the executive Counsel should be chosen from the Section of Country in which M^r Blount resides, for beside being the intermediate County between Newbern & Edenton & near the Seaboard, it is a heavy Slave holding County & in it is one of the principal Seaport Towns of the State. Permit me also to add, that no man could be more acceptable to that Section, than the Gentleman [Thomas H. Blount], now nominated for that appointment, by

Your ob^t Servant
Jos: B Hinton

Copy.

Resolved by the Senate & House of Commons of the State of North Carolina, that they entirely concur with & heartily give a hearty response to the sentiments expressed in the preamble of the communication made to this General Assembly by the Legislature of the State of Alabama, that the confidence which the Citizens of the State of Alabama reposed in the wisdom & patriotism of Andrew Jackson, induced them to yield to him their almost undivided support for the Presidency of the United States. and that his administration has been such as to justify their high expectations of that course of policy, which promises to advance the interests and redound to the glory of our common country.

Resolved further, that it is believed by this General Assembly that they would perform an acceptable Service to their constituents by recommending to the People of the United States, the reelection of Andrew Jackson, to the Presidency—at the expiration of his present term of service.

Resolved further that one copy of their Resolutions be transmitted by the Governor of this State, to President Jackson—one copy to each of our Senators & Reps. in Congress—& one copy to the Executives of the Several States.

[No address]

Joseph B. Hinton to William Augustus Blount

RAL 7th Jan. 1831

Dear Gen^l

The fish bill is ratified. Williams¹ would not suffer it to pass the Commons without amending it so as to hang up at Sunset of Saturday.

Bozman² of Chowan, after two ballotings, is elected Counsellor of State in place of your father. The cause was this—I rec^d & on the afternoon of the same day, laid your fathers resignation before the Senate, & inclosed in the letter, a copy of which is herewith & had them sent by message to the House of Commons & nominating Major Tho. H Blount—& took the occasion to tell the Senate who the Major was—& urge our claims to one of the Counsel—the Commons was engaged in a long discussion of certain political Resolutions & were not ready for balloting until next morning. When the morning came, I found that M^r Dick³ of the Senate had been actively engaged in the recess, in urging the reelection of M^r Grey⁴ last year, counsellor—but left out in the elections of this Session, & had rallied the Western men for their Western man.

¹This probably refers to John W. Williams, who represented Beaufort County in the 1831 House of Commons. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 297.

²Before his election to the Council of State, James Bozman represented Edenton in the North Carolina House of Commons (1827-1830). Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 175, 290, 292.

³John M. Dick of Guilford County served several terms in the North Carolina Senate between 1819 and 1832. He was a superior court judge from 1835 to 1861. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 274, 292, 294, 296, 361.

⁴Alexander Gray of Randolph County served in the North Carolina legislature at various times between 1798 and 1829. In the latter year he was elected to the Council of State. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 174, 237-291 passim.

And what surprised me most, was at hearing, that Sawyer⁵ & Blair⁶ of Chowan, had been busily & actively electioneering for Bozman & representing to all that the East must have another counsellor but that your brother was constitutionally disqualified by being a U States officer. On hearing it, I called on M Koy,⁷ Mears,⁸ (2) Caldwell⁹ & Spaight & submitted the question to them—they all agreed that there was nothing in the Constitution, but it would not do—the Act of Assembly disqualifying US. officers to hold offices under this State was pressed against the Majors election—the West or very many were willing to give us our man, And were desirous of gratifying me, but the poison had been too industriously scattered by Sawyer, Blair—& perhaps Genl Wilson;¹⁰ for he was opposed to the nomination of Major Blount—Williams, I fear did him no good perhaps to the contrary. If he had acted differently at the first election, we could have elected Major Blount triumphantly: but no, he would not hear to his nomination & he found many faults—I told him, to insist on his objections would deprive us of a Counsellor, when we could secure one: for I was certain your father would not act. but nothing could move him. On the first ballot Bozman was ahead of both Grey & your Brother—and I told the Senate that since so much pains had been taken to prejudice Major Blounts election, merely because he was a U S. officer—I would withdraw him—and did so—Williams had plead with Mr Kennedy to let him run him for the app^t (3) but he refused to permit him do so.

⁵This is probably a reference to Samuel T. Sawyer, who represented the town of Edenton in the North Carolina legislature between 1829 and 1832 and was the Chowan County senator in 1834. He was also a delegate to the state Constitutional Convention of 1835. Sawyer was an ardent Calhoun supporter and nullifier during the nullification crisis of 1832-1833. The unpopularity of nullification in North Carolina probably accounted for Sawyer's absence in the General Assembly in 1833. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 294, 296, 297, 299, 302, 817; Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 59, 61.

⁶George Blair represented Chowan County in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1829 to 1831. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 293, 295.

⁷This might refer to James I. McKay. See 1830, n. 17.

⁸William B. Meares, a former Federalist and a leader of the anti-Jackson forces in North Carolina, represented Wilmington and New Hanover County at various times in the North Carolina legislature between 1818 and 1834. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 274, 275, 291, 294, 300; Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 16, 29, 31, 35, 86, 95.

⁹David Caldwell of Rowan County represented the town of Salisbury in the House of Commons in 1825 and later represented his county as a state senator (1829-1831). He also served as a speaker of the senate (1829-1831), defeating Richard D. Spaight and the Jacksonian forces for that honor in 1830. A leader of western politicians in the state opposed to Jackson, Caldwell later became a Whig and served as a judge on the state superior court (1845-1860). He attended the North Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1865 as the delegate from Guilford County. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 286, 292-294, 296, 361, 370n, 832; Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 29, 31-32, 66, 116.

¹⁰This reference is probably to Louis D. Wilson of Tarboro. See 1822, n. 18.

Yesterday, I introduced the enclosed Resolutions. they were opposed by M Koy—Mears—& Martin¹¹ & supported by myself, Spaight—Wilson & Askew.¹² M Koy was outrageous & vehement in this opposition & succeeded in getting them committed to a committee of five—& the Speaker, who was opposed to them appointed the above three opponents & myself & Spaight. I was chairman—Spaight & myself were outnumbered, & they forced a Resolution upon us merely approbating the general course of the Admⁿ & in the House succeeded in carrying it—& excluding any expression of which for Gen^l Jacksons re-election. Thus, the Legislature of No Ca refuses to even request Gen^l Jackson to be a candidate for re-election!!¹³ I suspect the Commons won't pass the resolution unless it go much further than it now goes. You ask why I did this—I reply all my fears are dissipated & my approbation so fairly won, by the course of the Old Chief that I felt it due from me to give a token of my high satisfaction & wishes

Respectfully
Jos. B. Hinton

Gen^l W^m A Blount

Marshall Dickinson,¹⁴ I think made himself very busy in trying to defeat your bro.

Addressed: Gen^l W^m A. Blount
Washington
N^o Car.

¹¹This refers either to Robert Martin of Rockingham County or to John Martin of Wilkes County, both of whom were members of the North Carolina Senate in 1831. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 296.

¹²George O. Askew represented Bertie County in the North Carolina Senate in 1831. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 288, 292, 294, 296, 298.

¹³Governor Montfort Stokes submitted an Alabama resolution to the General Assembly on January 4, 1831, for its approval. The resolution applauded Jackson's administration and recommended his reelection. Richard D. Spaight and his followers, anxious to woo the Jacksonians, eagerly supported the bill. It failed to win senate approval, however, because of the determined opposition of William Meares, David Caldwell, and other anti-Jackson men. They instead substituted a document showing lukewarm support for the president but did not recommend his reelection. Spaight officially protested this action by the senate. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 35.

¹⁴For Marshall Dickinson see 1809, n. 1.

J. R. Donnell¹⁵ to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN Jan'y 10th 1831

Dear Sir

The almost incessant occupation for several days past, as one of a committee of Stockholders in investigating the condition and affairs of the Bank of Newbern,¹⁶ has prevented my replying to your favour of the 2^d by a mail of last week.

I do not at this time wish to make any investment of money, such as you have understood and indeed could not conveniently do so. With a view to a small investment in Northern stock, I transferred some funds to the North during the last summer, which I have not yet permanently invested. This I presume gave rise to the impression to which you refer.

Thinking very seriously of a measure, before long, which would leave all my time applicable to my private affairs, I shall probably, in that event, endeavour to increase my Land & negroes, with a view to more employment, than my present private business would afford me. I have been looking a little towards some real property in this quarter, expected to come into market before long. I fear we could not agree in the valuation of property on the Lake, (2) or in its neighbourhood, with a view to the present value of money and of property elsewhere. Indeed I feel

¹⁵For John R. Donnell see 1822, n. 8.

¹⁶During the late 1820s and early 1830s North Carolina underwent a major banking crisis. Privately owned and chartered in 1804, the Banks of New Bern and the Cape Fear were the first two banks in the state. The State Bank of North Carolina was chartered six years later (see 1876, n. 8). In 1814 the legislature extended the charter of the Bank of New Bern from 1820 to 1835 and increased its capitalization from \$200,000 to \$800,000. The state owned shares in all three banks and used the dividends to augment the state literary and internal improvements funds. By 1829, however, dividends had slumped markedly, and a legislative investigation revealed that the banks had engaged in speculation and authorized questionable loans that violated their charters. Notes worth more than four times the amount of currency in circulation in North Carolina had been issued. With the charters due to expire in only six years, each bank faced liquidation. In 1830 the legislature extended the bank charters to 1838 to allow the banks greater time to call in their loans, but it also imposed severe restrictions to forestall the emission of other notes. Compounding banking difficulties in the state was Jackson's war on the Bank of North Carolina; together the two bank crises created a great commercial depression. Anti-Jackson, probank forces, which would soon coalesce to form the Whig party, found able spokesmen in William Gaston and David Swain, who spearheaded the drive to establish a new state bank. In the legislative session of 1833-1834 the Bank of the State of North Carolina was chartered for a period to 1860 with capital assets of \$1,500,000, of which the state was to subscribe two fifths; note issues were limited to twice the amount of capital. At the same time the charter of the Bank of the Cape Fear was extended to 1855 and private banks were chartered at New Bern and Edenton. William K. Boyd, *The Federal Period, 1783-1860*; (1919; reprint ed., Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1973), 96, 102-103, 117-138, 175.

confident we could not, for I would not myself sell any property there at a rate very far above what I would be willing to purchase at.

With great esteem
Your Ob^t Ser^t
JR Donnell

John G Blount, Esqr

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
Washington
N. C.

Eli Smallwood to [John Gray Blount]

NEWBERN Jan'y 23 1831

My Dear Sir

Yours of the 12 is at hand requesting further indulgence on your debt to me. I feel disposed to accomodate you in your request but there are so many unforeseen occurrences which may take place that it would not be prudent in me or not doing justice to M^r Singleton¹⁷ to grant any indulgence without consulting him I have wrote to him upon the Subject when I receive his answer I will then inform you what he says upon the subject I am bound in honour to consult with M^r Singleton upon every occurrence which may take place as to this debt, I have lately witnesseth so many unforeseen occurrences and failers in our first characters that I have allmost lost confidence in all man kind and our Lawyers have undertaken to Quibble so much upon every transaction of business that it requires a man of Gastons talents to grant indulgences on execution or in fact to do any kind of business and he will not open his mouth for less than (2) \$10 upon any subject we all miss M^r Stanly¹⁸ in those [l]ittle matters very much, I am determind to close all my concerns in this State as soon as possible as to debts but shall endeavour to close them in such a way as not to make too great a Sacrafice of the property of those who are indebted to me, I shall follow Judge Donnell's example of vesting all my money in Northern funds as them are too much [illegible] having them in the hands of individuals in the county, I have now due 40 or 50

¹⁷For Thomas Singleton see 1813, n. 19.

¹⁸This probably refers to John Stanly. See 1803, n. 43.

Thousand dollars and I cannot collect by way of interest or otherwise money enough to answer my daily purposes and when I ask for money it is in the mouth of all persons you dont want money why should you press me They dont reflect that by having money by me that I bough[t] M^r Tillmans¹⁹ plantation containing 1,700 of first rate land for \$3,000 which has [illegible] been vallued at \$20,000 and now I want money to purchase Negroes to Settle it, I have allready employed M^r Gaston to foreclose morgage against some of my verry best friend although it is for money loaned I Shall have the illwill for ever.

With your notions of the value of unreclaimed Swamp land I do not think it possible for you (3) & me to bargain for it, Rhuben Benson²⁰ told me when I bought Ben Watson²¹ tract of land adjoining my lake front plantation and it is not inferior to any land in Hyde as to Soil & timber for 3\$ p^r acre that I had made a bad bargain and that I would never see that money paid back from the land. I see now he was correct in his judgement, there are so many of our best citizens moving from this county to the New Country²² where land is so low that we may give up all idea ever selling any more land in Hyde for any thing like its former nomilal value from experience I do not think any unrecovered swamp land worth reclaiming, it certainly would not sell for the cost of reclaiming to day in cash. I am told that loss to Crtwright County in good citizens leaving it for the new Countrys is vere great a great many fine familys have gon from this County and many more preparing to go in the Spring some of whom I regret much to loose, I do not nead the land near poplaridge for rail timber for the (4) canal farm, the purchase of M^r Masters land gives me timber sufficient for that farm, I wish to know what you would call a low price or in other words take for that peice of land which lies between my Land & poplarridge which is included in a line drawn from the northwest corner of poplarridg to Juniperbay dich

¹⁹A Henry Tillman resided in Craven County and represented it at least four times between 1797 and 1812 in the General Assembly. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 236, 243, 254, 262.

²⁰This probably refers to Rubin Benston, who is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of eight. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 17.

²¹In all probability this was Benjamin Watson of Hyde County, who represented his county in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1834. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 303.

²²After 1815 better economic opportunities and an abundance of land lured many North Carolinians to the states west of the Appalachians. Archibald D. Murphey estimated that 200,000 North Carolinians had already left their native state by 1815. The heaviest migration occurred during the 1830s, when half the counties in the state suffered a decline in population. In 1790 North Carolina was fourth in population among the states, but in 1830 it had fallen to fifth. By 1860 it was twelfth. Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 304-305.

old M^r Hollowell²³ told me that it was the drain of the Swamp and too low for Cultivation and how many acres would be in those lines

I should be glad to have a settlement of M^r Hastings acc^t M^r Simmons has sent us a Statement of the ammount paid you and we all do think that the acc^t ought to be closed, for the ballace which may be due you note for my part will do for me Some years ago you charged me on your Books with the ammount that I rec^d from Hutson for that part which was due to M^r Stanly, any Gave M^r Stanly credit for it that charge I cannot allow you, becaus I have paid M^r Stanly the am^t rec^d and you had better alter M^r Stanly acc^{ts}

Yours Respectfully
E Smallwood

P. S. I do not think M^r Singleton will be unwilling to induge you
[No address]

Joseph B. Hinton to William Augustus Blount

WASHINGTON CITY
11th feby 1831

Dear Sir

The utmost rigour of this most rigorous winter still continues here. Snowing every day or two—and so cold as to render life itself in continual hazard. What with walking much, and riding some, but much of the way in an open uncovered Cart rarely at a more rapid gait than a Slow walk often having to push the vehicle through snow & ice 4, 6, 8 & 10 feet in depth and rarely making more than 14 to 18 miles per day and several times travelling thus most of the night—I say in this way I got to this place in a fortnight after leaving Raleigh, but reached here more dead than alive & quite willing, as often I had been when worn with exposure cold & fatigue, to sink down & die. My Kentucky companion cheered me & measurably kept me moving. To give you an idea of the intensity of the cold—between Richmond & Fredericksburg, we passed two year old fat Hogs, & one very large fine looking Boar—actually frozen to death—the Boar & some of the others were standing on their

²³This might refer to Ira Hollowell. See 1803, n. 1.

feet & had so froze to death. I have seen Ice in the Chesapeake, Potomac & James River four feet in thickness. The Lord deliver me from such another journey. It has shocked my health & perhaps my Constitution—irreparably, I apprehend.

I write this, not so much to speak of myself as to do what I think will be a public benefit—that is, to urge you to declare yourself a candidate for Congress. I think I am not mistaken in your views—if I am not, our section of Country needs you here. Dr Hall²⁴ wishes, nay, is anxious to return here yet—& to live here, all his life. a perfect incubus upon the body politick. He is amusing—he tries every (2) plan he can invent to extract from me my views upon the Subject: he has tried through others, to draw me out into a declaration that I will not be in his way, but will favour his pretensions. Two days ago, he informed me that Marshal Dickinson had written him that you was certainly no candidate, nor would be—it pleased him much, and then he strove to draw out of me whether any body else would. He fears his last years annunciation, and is striving to manage it so, as to keep down all others—& then say, the people wish & he must serve them. But he has been so much with Randolph & Macon,²⁵ & has fancied that he is really the one or the other & that his only chance for immortality, is, that he oppose every thing useful to the Country. He is indeed the veriest Ishmaelite in Congress—against every thing except his foolish theory, formed by a congeries of absurdities which he hugs to death in the most ridiculous manner. Here are some specimens. Gen^l Speight²⁶ moved to throw up fortifications near Ocracoke to protect our waters in times of war—Dr Hall scouted the idea & aided to defeat it. Gen^l Speight moved to still further secure the commerce of Pamptico Sound by placing a light upon Brant Island Shoal—Dr Hall hooted at it—Gen^l Speight moved to make the operations at the Swash effectual, by farther appropriations, if necessary—it was disgusting to hear the foolish slang uttered by Dr Hall representing the Country so interested in that work. Gen^l Speight applied to Hall to go with him to the department to obtain an order for the removal of the Swash Machine to Washg (3) now that she cannot operate at the Swash & remove the Sand Shoal below our Town—he refused to go, said he was opposed to all the System & added by God Sir if she is thus employed, I

²⁴For Thomas H. Hall see 1812, n. 21. Hall was an unshakable Jacksonian who followed the administration's policy of opposing internal improvements. He easily defeated his anti-Jackson opponents in the congressional election of 1831. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 13, 30, 43, 65, 67.

²⁵This refers to John Randolph and Nathaniel Macon. See 1803, n. 95, and 1803, n. 91 respectively.

²⁶For Jesse Speight see 1818, n. 8.

insist that the Crooks at Willowpoint & up to the bend of the River and all the Creeks be worked on & opened. A work like that to elicit such unpardonable remarks from our rep. In truth he has nothing at Stake—has no community of interest with the body of our people and he scorns obeying the almost unanimous instruction of the Legislature respecting Roanoke inlet.

Gen^l you can be easily elected—Announce yourself at once—Go to the Courts & see the people. recollect that *discretion* is the better part of valour—discretion in speaking is no little matter—as well as in writing. Address a Short Circular & say little beside that you will give to the Admⁿ a Support and also support the manifest policy & interests of No Ca & whatever can improve the commerce or protect the Country—in a word you support *National Works*. this is the distinction laid down by the Cabinet itself. You will pardon these suggestions—because they are well intended. If you will but take this counsel—Hall will be afraid & will keep back. Wilson is out of the question—Clark²⁷ cannot forget nor be reckless of his compensation Vote. & there is none else to fear. & even if Edgecomb was to muster up a man—the other Counties would now unite to put down her dominance. Beaufort, Hyde, Wash & Tyrrell & Pitt are too deeply interested in the policy I have mentioned to be in different—they would elect you by acclamation. I am vain enough to believe, that if I got my due here—I could easily obtain a Seat in Congress—but higher cares force themselves upon me. (4) I have a wife & child, have lived rather to benefit others than myself—and now the Shadows of life are approaching—Believe me the hope even of reward enters not into my motives. What you do you must do quickly—lest the charge of opposing somebody else be preferred against you. fail not in your address to remind the people that D^r Hall some months signified his wish & intention to retire; and that you offer to *supply the vacancy*.

If my Health would have permitted it, I could have seen some portion of satisfaction in the kind & splendid attentions I have rec^d here. I have dined with the President, the Sec State: the Sec Navy—& am to day to dine with the Sec at War²⁸—beside many other invitations from other

²⁷ This is probably a reference to James West Clark. See 1821, n. 26.

²⁸ Jackson's secretary of state was Martin Van Buren (1782-1862) of New York, who was actively engaged in trying to secure the political dominance of the Jacksonian Democrats before the 1832 presidential election. The secretary of the navy at this time was John Branch of North Carolina, a Calhoun supporter. John H. Eaton of Tennessee, a personal friend of Jackson and an influential politician, served as secretary of war until his resignation in the spring of 1831. He later served as the territorial governor of Florida and as minister to Spain. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 40-43; Richard P. McCormick, *The Second American Party System: Party Formation in the Jacksonian Era* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1966), 205-209. For John Branch see 1823, n. 18. Also, for additional information on John H. Eaton see 1821, n. 38.

officers of the Gov^t & members of Congress. The President is a most interesting man. it is impossible to see without loving him: I had been vastly misled in regard to the ferocity of the man—A sage—a patriot—and with the most kind & mellowed dispositions, he sanctifies the atmosphere around him & enchants his visitor. Alas! M^r Calhoun²⁹ has been ruined by his So Ca friends: he & the Pres. has no intercourse—the tide is setting strongly in favour of M^r Van Buren—Methodists, Presbyterians & Clayites are to take hold of M Lean,³⁰ it is said here

Yours

Jos B Hinton

Gen^l W. A. Blount

As soon as the weather moderates & the Ice will allow it I shall start for Washgⁿ

[No address]

²⁹ John C. Calhoun, Jackson's vice-president, and several members of Jackson's cabinet, including John Branch, were opposed to many administration policies and began to form a political association opposed to the Jacksonians. John H. Eaton's second marriage to Peggy O'Neale Eaton, a woman considered socially undesirable by Washington society, contributed to the political animosities in Jackson's cabinet between Calhoun supporters and those loyal to the president, including Van Buren, after Calhoun refused to receive the Eatons. Eventually the Eaton affair enabled Jackson to reorganize his cabinet with his friends. Calhoun resigned the vice-presidency in 1832, in protest over the tariff and the violation of state rights, and returned to South Carolina to campaign actively against the Jacksonian Democrats. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 40-41; *Who Was Who*, 160.

³⁰ Henry Clay, with presidential ambitions of his own, replaced John Quincy Adams as the major opponent of the administration and conducted continuous harangues against Jackson while seeking to solidify western support behind him. Apparently, Clay sought to enlist the backing of John McLean (1785-1861) of Ohio. McLean, postmaster general from 1823 to 1829, was named to the Supreme Court by Adams in 1829 but was an avowed Calhoun supporter in 1831. However, McLean's western ties and his own presidential ambitions might have encouraged him to listen to Clay's blandishments. McLean was linked with the Anti-Masonic party in 1831 and later became associated with the Whig party, the Free Soil party, and the Republican party in 1860. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 621; Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 39-40; "John McLean," in John Howard Brown (ed.), *The Cyclopaedia of American Biographies* (Boston: Federal Book Co., 7 volumes, 1897-1903), V, 289-290; Robert V. Remini, *Martin Van Buren and the Making of the Democratic Party* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1959), 114, 229n; Glyndon G. Van Deusen, *The Jacksonian Era, 1828-1848* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1959), 181, hereinafter cited as Van Deusen, *Jacksonian Era*.

Eli Smallwood to [John Gray Blount]

NEWBERN Feby 20 1831

Dear Sir

I wrote the promised letter to M^r Singleton he did not answer my letter because he was compelled to be at Newbern, he left this place to day for Hyde I handed your letter to him and told him that I should give you indulgence if he would permit [illegible] to do so, he said that he wished to consult an attorney upon the subject and after getting leagal advice he told me that he was determined to give no further indulgence and that he should order the sheriff to sell & close the business, he told me that he should write to you and give you his reasons for so doing before he left this town, If you had given me the promised morgage the debt would have been under my controal only and would have been at rest so much time elapsed and you did not send it caused M^r Singleton to be uneasy and requested a Suit to be commced if you had attended to the business promptly and sent (2) the morgage you would have prevented the unnecessary lawsuit and save \$100 in the cost and Sherriffs commission, and I see that you are to have an unnecessary lawsuit about the debt due from M^r Hastings to us, I say unnecessary because you can strike the ballance due me any give me your not[e] upon Interest for it, In your letter of the 18th Instant you have answered every part of my letter to you in which you Interest are concerned by in that part of my letter where my interest are you have not answered, it cannot remain in its present situation no longe. Some years agoe M^r Stanly requested a settlement of that account and you answer was that you had rec^d Cottons, and his reply was what was that to us we did not authorise Cottons to be received. If 8 dollars is your lowest price for the land near poplar ridge it would be more to my interest to vest my money in the Stock of the United State Bank becaus I could (3) not receve any interest from it during my life. were I to buy it at about half the sum you ask which is about the price that I should be willing to give, and I certainly would not purchase land when the price of produce are so low, unless I bought a great bargain in it, I am selling land upon much better turns than you offere yours at, I have sold my lake front land for less than 9\$ p^r acre and it co[s]t me \$12 p^r acre with all the [illegible] fence and improvents and it has allways paid a bout 8 pct Interest I bought it undere the belief that we should have improve the back land but seeing no prospect and if there was a prospect I have resoved to never improve them with my money, is the reason why I sold it for \$3 p^r acre less than it cost, I have a tract of land in the long pattent on the back of Sam^l Western which I bought from Mathew Bomer at

17/6 p^r acre it is within your lines, said to be inferior to no land as to Soil & timber (4) I will sell it to you for the same I gave and loose the interest, I would not sell it at this price were it not that I have sold my lake front land & the tract I bought from Ben Watson I have offered all my land in Hyde to Judge Donnell excepting my plantations and the divided land near them for which I pay taxes for Twenty Six thousand acre for Twenty six thousand shillings and he will not giv it, M^r Stanlys can be I immagin bot for \$6,00 It was told me that was the price that the Bank had set on it. I can purchase the Carter tract for \$1 pr acre which I can drain into the Junipr bay dich without gowing through any other land but my own

I mention all those circumstances to show how little prospect ther are for you & myself ever making another bargain for swamp land with you idea of the value of it, you have got a heavy some of money from me for a little peice of land & I do most cincealy regret the purchase

Yours Respectfully
E Smallwood

[No address]

William R. Gaston to Samuel Smallwood

NEWBERN Feb^y 26th 1831

Sir

I have not been able to examine the case upon which you have requested my opinion until to day. Supposing that you are anxious for an early answer I send it to you by mail without awaiting the return of the gentleman who brought your letter

On examining the copy of M^r Smallwood's will in connection with the settlement I see no difficulty with respect to the negroes. They belong *beneficially* to your children with a contingent interest if either should die childless to the other, and if both die childless to yourself. This future contingent interest you may sell and assign to another. It may be made liable for your debts by an application to a Court of Equity, but it can not be seised and sold by execution. By the terms of the will you have right to the custody of the negroes for the benefit of the children. As this right is an authority uncoupled with any interest in you, it can in no way be sold. (2) I do not discover any benefit likely to result from now requir-

ing a conveyance of Gen^l Blount. It will be his duty to give one when such is properly prepared and tendered to him for execution.

With respect to the land, I am satisfied that you take no estate in it as tenant by Curtesy, for it was the intent of the settlement to exclude you from any interest in it. I am also satisfied that the children are now entitled to the enjoyment of the land. Perhaps it is unnecessary for me to give any further opinion at present. Questions may arise hereafter involving difficulty. Without undertaking *now* to solve them with confidence I will observe that M^r Smallwood's will can not affect the land further than the power authorises; that this power is restricted to the property conveyed in the Settlement to the Trustee; and that in the settlement this property (so far as the land is concerned) is described as "the rents and Profits of the land thereby bargained to the Trustee his executors and administrators" I think it clear that the fee-simple of the land was not conveyed to the Trustee, and of course that M^r (2) Smallwood had not a power over the fee-simple. I incline to think that by the settlement a legal interest in the land passed to Gen^l Blount for the *term of his life*, and that Mr S's appointment by will operates to the extent of his interest and no further. If so then your Children and yourself take precisely (during his life) the same estates vested and contingent [manuscript torn] are given with respect to the negroes, but upon his death the final right to the land is in these children by descent as the heirs at law of their mother.

I shall avail my self of a private opportunity to return you your papers. The fee which you stated to be inclosed in your letter was as I understand accidentally ommitted. You will please to forward it as soon as may be convenient

Respectfully your obed^t Serv^t
Will: Gaston

Addressed: Samuel Smallwood Esq
Washington
N C^a

James S. Clark to John Gray Blount

GREENVILLE March 2nd 1831

John G Blount Esq^r

dear Sir I have call on M^r Nobles for the money he had collect for you he told me he had not collect oonly thirty dollars which Sum he did not pay over to me.

I Stand vary much in nead of about three Hundred dollars—which sum please to send me next week by John Singletary either in cash or drafts. & by so doing, I will take the amount of claimes you have in Nobles Hands & give M^r Singletary my recipt for the money & Nobles recipt or credit your bond with the amount—Some of the Claimes is doubtfull about Twenty five dollars of the Claimes insolvent but I think probable that I can save or secure them, during this Summer, & I will wait for the ballance untill may—

I have not fixt your business with R Hines but I shall be able to do so next week with out any thing shoud turn up more than I know of. Your dead of trust will be good if it is executed any time betwen this & may court next

Yours most &c
Ja^s S. Clark

Nobles recipt about \$200
Cash \$250 or \$300
Send up the recipt

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N^o Ca

Edmund P. Gaines to John Gray Blount

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE,
March 14, 1831

John Gray Blount Esq.

Sir:

Your letter of the 12th of January last met me two weeks ago at Dresden in the Western District of this State—whither I had been traveling to explore the remnants of the Lands granted to John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount,³¹ and devised by the latter to his nieces and nephews for whom I act—with a view to the final adjustment of this long neglected and abused business.

Having assured you in my letter of the 18th of October last that no more of those Lands (no matter by whom conveyed) should be sold until

³¹ This is a reference to John Gray Blount's brother Thomas who died in 1812.

the claims of these devisees are ascertained and settled, I had hoped that you and your co-executor had taken the necessary measures to effect this object without further delay—with this view I lost no time in seeking a conference with your Agent, James Caruthers Esq., to whom you intimated you had given particular instructions—but who, much to my surprise and regret, had been authorized to do nothing towards the desired adjustment of the matter—but merely to repeat to the devisees a new version of the old theme about the misfortunes of their lamented Father, the failure of your Agent David Allison, and to reiterate your wish that we should consent to the sale of more of our Lands.

I have replied to Mr Caruthers that inasmuch as we are prepared to prove that you and the other surviving Executor³² of General Thomas Blount have already sold of his Lands and Land-Warrants much more than you were authorized to sell, and that you had raised out of the said Lands a sum of money far exceeding all the just debts owed by the Testator at the time of his death, not an acre more should be sold except by due course of law, until these devisees shall receive that to which they are entitled.

Though clearly entitled for near twenty years past to the principal part of General Thomas Blount's share of the Lands owned by him and you at the time (2) of his death, as stated in his Will, these devisees have ever since been amused with vague and various accounts of old claims and empty promises—After being thus amused for sixteen years, they received in place of their long promised Land, legal notice of the Bill in chancery instituted against them by the Executor T. H. Blount, combined with D. Cameron and William Hooper.³³ That Bill disclosed to these devisees the elements of a fraud apparently designed to sweep from them every acre and every dollar they could call their own. In their ef-

³²This refers to Thomas Harvey Blount, John Gray Blount's son.

³³Thomas Blount's widow Jackey (Mary Sumner) Blount died in 1822 and left a will that provided a considerable sum of money for the erection of the Christ Church building in Raleigh. Realizing that her and her husband's heirs at law might challenge her right to dispose of property for the benefit of a church, she added a clause to the will that ordered Duncan Cameron and William Hooper to assume control of her property in case of a challenge and to dispose of said property as they thought best. Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 131. For Duncan Cameron see 1830, n. 21. William Hooper III (1792-1876) taught at the University of North Carolina for many years and was the stepson of Joseph Caldwell, president of the university. Hooper was confirmed in the Episcopal church in 1818 and ordained a priest in 1822. He left the church in 1825, after "he had been cursed by a precocious two-year-old to whom he was administering the sacrament of baptism." He later joined the Baptist church and continued his teaching career at Furman College in Greenville, South Carolina, and at Wake Forest College where he served as president from 1846 to 1848. Hooper also continued ministerial duties at various churches. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, VII, 245-250.

forts to defend themselves against that fraud, their eyes were opened—They filed their Cross Bill, whereupon a virtuous chancellor granted to them an *Injunction*: upon which we shall hold fast, as upon the last plank in a Shipwreck, until the Executors who have long disregarded our rights, and turned a deaf ear to our entreaties, shall do us justice. From this plank you now desire to loosen our hold—we say no! never! Should we have the weakness to comply with your request, utter ruin to our just claims would be the inevitable consequence.

About fifteen years ago we learned from you that the *Release* which you obtained from Mrs. Jackey S. Blount, was obtained only for the just and equitable purposes mentioned in your answer to the Bill of the said Jackey S. Blount: yet, notwithstanding I have often desired a copy of that Release it has not yet been produced. About the same time you obtained the Judgment against your Brother's estate upon your and his joint bond for money which I expect to prove was obtained for your own use. I wish to see what bearing the Release may have upon this and other money matters. Eleven years past your Co-Executor Thomas H. Blount in his letter to William G. Blount, urging these devisees to give their joint bond to M^{rs} Jackey S. Blount for eight thousand six hundred and eighty dollars, said to be due to her, stated that that sum was the only claim for which our Lands were liable, except one, viz: J. G. Blounts for about ten thousand dollars (the Judgment above mentioned) for which Lands had been sold but for what amount he did not know, but that John did (3) know and he would inform him (William). John did inform me that 17,500 dollars had been raised out of the Lands by your agents and he promised to give me credit for the half of the sum. Nine years ago your Co-Executor Thomas H. Blount assured me at the city of New Orleans that William G Blount was authorized to divide the Lands among these devisees as soon as he pleased, yet now, that so many years have passed by, and after you have caused the Lands to be divided, by selling off the best of them and for near double the amount said to be due the creditors of General Blount, leaving only the Refuse for us, you still wish your agent to renew his sales to enable you to raise 8,000 Dollars!!

You say this sum is a part of what you had to pay in consequence of your having given a Letter of credit to David Allison, who was introduced to you by your beloved Brother William—and that your plantation from which you draw your support is to be sold under an Execution to satisfy this 8,000 dollar debt. In reply to this part of your letter I have to remark that neither your Brother William nor his children could upon any known principle of justice be answerable for the conduct of your faithless agent, further than to show, as you have long known, that he

had the confidence of your Brother, and was generally supposed to merit that confidence at the time he introduced him to you. But you and your Brother were equally deceived by this agent, your Brother it seems was singled out as the victim in Allison's villany—your Brother was thus ruined whilst you were left rich!³⁴ His younger children have no knowledge of having had any of his property excepting their mother's Dowry. Under these circumstances your other excellent Brother General T. Blount left them a part of his property—of this they have never received a dollar's worth. It was an undivided property of which you claimed a part—you and your son Thomas H. Blount were considered by us as the principal acting executors, we therefore left the business to your management, for many years, until we found that you were managing only for yourselves. Hence it is that we have taken measures for securing the remnants of the Lands devised to us. (4) We find that whilst you have been in the habit of receiving from four to eight thousand dollars a year for our Lands sold by you and your agents the devisees have been kept out of every cent's worth of the property, and have had that which they obtained by their industry and from other sources sold under execution and otherwise for want of that which you have so long, and so unjustly withheld from them. Two of these are dead—two others are without the means of support. The time has therefore arrived at which they must have that which you have so long withheld from them.

The above rapid sketch of the prominent facts which we are prepared to prove, will suggest to a mind like yours the means to terminate this painful controversy. Do us justice, and there will be no delay or difficulty in the matter.

With due Respect

Your obdt Servt
 Edmund P. Gaines
 for himself & wife³⁵ & Agent
 in fact for
 Richard B. Blount
 &
 E. I. B. Wiatt³⁶

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
 Washington N.C.

³⁴William Blount's unexpected death in 1800 left his family virtually destitute, largely because of his incredible gambling in land speculations. His brother John Gray Blount and half-brother Willie Blount assumed responsibility for the education of their deceased brother's children and tried to salvage what they could of William Blount's estate. Master-son, *William Blount*, 346-347.

³⁵Gaines was married to Barbara Blount, William Blount's daughter. See 1826, n. 7.

³⁶For Edwin and Eliza Blount Wiatt see 1826, n. 11.

John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount

BERTIE COUNTY 27th March 1831

Mr John G Blount

Dear Sir

I have at Last a verbal report of the Inspector of which I made a memorandum at the time & which I send you having Some time without getting a written though I expect it daily—as Soon as it comes to hand will Send it to you.

I made, Since I Last Saw you, Several attempts to get the road inspected earliar & by two Inspectors but without Success & was compelled at Last to have it done by a Single person—Mr. Currell Says that the road near the Bridge has Suffered Some Injury by the water running over it occasioned by the Late Heavy rains—From the Quantity of water in the Swamp he could not asscertain the precise point at which the crossloggings was to have commenced—that part Shown him as having been done by Mr Clark was, with the exception of a few Holes, done according to contract—Of these Holes but a few are visible in the part done by Mr Clark—The rest of the road is not So well (2) done as that by Mr Clark the Holes being very plenty—These Holes are occasioned by the Logs being (Some of them) too Short & others too Long So that their ends, which Should butt in the middle do not meet (thus ≡≡ and Leave an open place between them which is not filled with either wood or dirt. The others (too Long) the end of the Logs from one Side Lie between the ends of two Logs from (thus ≡≡≡) the other Side, which Leaves a Long & ugly Hole in the middle of the road—

A Horse cannot with Safety he thinks be carried along the middle of the road—There is not a Sufficiency of Dirt on the road though the ditches are as they ought to be in debth & width—The above is I believe the most material if not nearly all that he told me—I have written to Mr Clark & mentioned to him what was Said of his work—The big ditch for which the Last act was applied for is very much wanted, the water has Swept over Elys road in Several places which will throw him back Some time

I am very respectfully
yr M. O. Sert J. G. Roulhac

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington, N.C.

*John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount*BERTIE COUNTY 25th April 1831

Dear Sir

Yours of the 11th Inst came to hand night before Last & I hasten to write you to rectify a mistake into which Mr Clark has fallen & probably you as much as to Send you acc^t—Mr Clark commences a Letter which I received a few days ago by Saying “I am glad to hear the road has been received”—He later at your Town Says he has Shewn my Letter to you & Leaves me to infer from another part of it that you both understood that I had received the road. I certainly did not intend to convey any Such Idea not having received authority from the Directors to do So, neither could I (if I had had authority) receive one part of a contract while the other part was Incomplete—My Brother, whose, duty it was to have called the meeting was absent nor has he yet returned though I expect he will have returned by the time I mentioned to Mr Clark—I thought it best to invite Mess^{rs} Clark & Satchwell to meet us at Plymouth to take the State of the Road into consideration—as regards the contemplated meeting in May, I think it very uncertain as Mr Clark Says that if it does not interfere with (2) their other business they cannot come if it does not they may though they are inclined to think that it will—I cannot afford to go to Plymouth & wait their uncertain [illegible] not having any business in the Court myself—

The necessity of a Ditch to cniby is I think indisputable yet I doubt whether it will be cut not from want of Funds which I think may be got, but from a want of activity in the Company itself—One even of the Directors Labours if I understand him aright in a Letter I received a few days to prove first the impossibility of making a passable road & 2^{ndly} the Inutility of Such a road if it Should happen to be made—

If I Should Learn that Mess^{rs} Clark and Satchwell will be at Plym^o I will try & be there but in my present State of uncertainty I do not Know that I Shall—

On the other Side you will see your acc^t—At the request of Mr Walker I charged you with the \$20.80 & have credited his acc^t with that Sum charged to you—Mr Clark has undertaken the Collection of Jaspers note which is not charged to you in this acc^t

I am very respectfully
Yr M O S^t
J. G. Roulhac

(3)

Mr John G. Blount

1830	To Plymouth Turnpike Company	
May 27	To Cash pd y ^r order for 1 st Instalment on Lot N ^o 3.	\$375—
Nov ^r 17	do do 2 nd do do	375
	Am ^t of acct Sent you which when collected will in part	
	pay ^t of 3 ^d Instalment on Said Lot	440—
	Am ^t paid you by Thos. Walker & charged to you by	
	his request which is also in part of 3 rd Inst.	20.80
		<hr/>
	rec ^d by Clark 375\$	\$1210.80

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
 Washington
 N.C.

Edward Livingston to [John Gray Blount]

(Confidential)

[May 5, 1831]

(Copy.)

Sir:

I LAST winter carefully examined the case of the CALIOPE³⁷ at your request and then gave you my verbal opinion which I have now no objection to repeat in writing.—It is, that this case coming within the description of those claims which were abandoned by the United States for a valuable consideration to France ought, in justice and according to the positive provision of the Constitution to be paid to the full amount by the United States.—I am further of opinion that it comes within the purview of the bill reported by a committee to the Senate at the last and at the next preceeding session, and that if that bill or one of a similar import should pass as I think it must, the sum of five millions thereby appropriated will very nearly, if not entirely, cover all such claims as can be legally substantiated under its provisions.

³⁷ At least three other Blount ships fell into French hands prior to the Convention of 1800. The brigantine *Russell*, built by Benjamin Russell on Pungo Creek, was captured in 1797. The *Tuley* and *Greampas* were both seized in 1799. Loy and Worthy, *Washington and the Pamlico*, 234.

Your most obedient servant,
(Signed,) EDWARD LIVINGSTON.

To Mr. _____

5th May, 1831

[No address]

John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount

BERTIE COUNTY May 23rd 1831

Mr John G Blount

Dear Sir

Yours of the 3rd is just at hand. I met with Mess^{rs} Clark & Satchwell at Plym^o Last week—The whole body were present & the Ditch to Coniby found no favour as yet in the Sight of any of the other Three—It was objected to it the uncertainty of its necessity which could not be ascertained till the road ditches were complete as it was possible they might discharge all the water, also the difficulty of finding the proper place to Join it to the road—

The Gentlemen from the other Side objected to it very very Strenuously in toto & proposed to Supply its place by making the ditches already cut as much wider & deeper as may be necessary to take off all the water by way of Pungo—Everything except getting an order of court to condemn the Land already used was Laid over till the completion of Mr Elys contract enabled them to act more understandingly on the Subject—

I have Since I wrote you received the report of Mr Currell I do not Send you a copy as I gave you the (2) Substance of it before—My Brother accompanied Mess^{rs} Clark & Satchwell on their return as far as Pungo Bridge—He reports the work of Mr Clark as complete & that of Mr Davis as requiring a day or two's work to put it in order, They I Suppose will have to Keep them complete till yours is done. He Says that the part which your hands were at work on required considerable work yet on it—Mr Ely informed me Last week that operations would immediately be recommenced on his part So that I hope early in the Summer (at the Latest by the middle of it) the road will be in Travelling order—I understand that Mr Elys contract extends into the pond which is Said to be near the middle of the Road & that near half a mile of his road will require Cross Logging as much as any other part of the Road—Mr Cur-

rell & my Brother both agree in this: Mr Currell in a note to his report mentions it & deems it So essential that he advises, as that part of the road is not done, that we try & contract with Ely to alter the present way in which it is to be done & Substitute crossloggings even at an enhanced price—My Brother thinks from his observation that it (3) would be the cheapest way that Ely could make that part, & that probably Mr Ely would agree to the proposed change with any advance of [illegible]. He thinks it clearly his interest to do So—I intend to apply to Mr Ely & Learn on what Terms he would make the alteration & Let you as well as the Directors Know—

I have money on hand Sufficient to Pay you your balance if as I understood you, you take the debt on the other Side Except Jaspers & Shall be ready to Settle & Pay you at any moment—

I am very respectfully your
Most Ob^t Servt J. G. Roulhac

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington N.C.

John Wolfenden to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON N. C. MAY 26th 1831

Mr John Gray Blunt— Sir

I went out in the U. S. Ship Brandywine and Returand home in US. Ship Gaval on the account of my helth whch is Rather in A Dicline. I wish you to Let Me her from my Son and how [he] is and If he wants any money Let me now and I will Send him Some Sir when you Rites me a Letter Disrect your Letter to me on Bord of the U S [S]hip Congress at Gosport Navy yard portsmouth Va—please not Let my Son now that I ame in Norfolk and you will oblige me tell him that you have herd from me and I am well

John Wolfenden

Answer this
amedeatlie

Addressed: Mr. John. Gray. Blunt Esqur
Washington N.C.

*J. B. Beasley*³⁸ to *John Gray Blount*

TYRRELL COUNTY 10th Augt 1831

Dear Sir

Since I wrote you I have commenced a Suit vs William Meekins whose Father Patented in your Survey, his Grant bears date 1804 and numbered 785 which grant he has not took in possession until this spring. Knowing this circumstance I thought it the safest and best chance to make a selection to Sue. as to my part I think there is no doubt of success unless there should be some deficiency in your title other than the Grant represents if a circumstance of this kind should happen we may in that case fail. all of which you are the best judge

I was in company with Jn Haughton a few days ago and speaking of your title he was of opinion that it was not good in consequence of you in the first Instance conveying the whole of it to Hall & Co, and then taking a deed from them for the portion which you claim and which deed he says has never been registered, and expressed a belief that it never could be proved. whether these circumstances are true you are the best judge. However from this circumstance alone, he says, was the means of your submitting to a non suit in the action against him. and that it was not in consequence of the Court refusing to allow a copy of your Grant to be read as evidence

(2) Notwithstanding the difficulties that at present seem to be in the way I shall not abandon the undertaking under a belief that you know your own business much better than any other person and would not direct me counter to your better judgment. So soon as the suit is decided and the land recovered I shall commence an action for trespasses committed

I have employed P. O. Piset to attend to the business, who no doubt you frequently see at your place and who you can place in the hands of such evidence of your title as may be deemed necessary to carry on the suit with safety and success

I named to him at the time I presented him copies of the Two Grants, that your Grant could not be found. he stated that there must be evidence of that fact, and said I must go and search in among your papers for it before a copy could be offered as evidence. unless you could attend in person & qualify to the fact all these things you no doubt know better

³⁸ John Baptiste Beasley was elected a state senator from Tyrrell County (1821-1830) and later from Washington County (1835). Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 278-304 passim, 359, 365n.

than most of us and will have them properly presented when we shall need them. The Land that I have sued for is not of much value. but it honestly belongs to you, and this suit may hereafter be the means of checking others from pillaging. The timber off of your land (3) for the reasons I have named and some others I have made this selection as the most suitable and certain one whereon a suit could be brought with safety

The cypress swamp that I understand was yours and which I proposed to purchase of you does not belong to you, as it was patented in 1789 by Isaac Meekins (the land and swamp I have sued for was also, but in the date I have named) and as I cannot get the whole I must try to put up with a part. I have here given you a statement of what I understand in relation to the situation of the title under which [manuscript torn] claim and leave the whole subject to you in hopes that you will cause me to be furnished with every paper necessary to issue the suit with safety. with much respect your obt st

J B Beasley

Jn G Blount Esqr

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr^r
Washington
Beaufort County

B. W. Daniel to William Augustus Blount

ADJUTANT GENERALS OFFICE
RALEIGH Sep. 16 1831

Gen^l W^m A Blount

Dear Sir

I must request the favour of you to turn the arms recieved from Newbern, in your possession over to the company raising in your County³⁹

³⁹Nat Turner's insurrection in Southampton County, Virginia, during the late summer of 1831 prompted a number of North Carolina counties, especially in the eastern part of the state, to call out their militias. Numerous rumors of slave conspiracies in North Carolina were spawned by Turner's activities. At least twenty slaves were executed in North Carolina because of the rumors and general hysteria. This letter no doubt refers to arms issued to the militia during the Turner scare. Johnson, *Ante-Bellum North Carolina*, 519-520.

and this shall cancel your receipt for the same heretofore given—At the same time I must request your kindness to furnish me a return before the meeting of the Legislature of the arms in the hands of your company & of those now directed to be disposed of, exhibiting their number & condition &c

respectfully
B W Daniel
Adj Gen

Addressed: General William A. Blount
Washington N C

Willie Blount to John Gray Blount

TURNERSVILLE ROBERTSON COUNTY TENN.
Oct^r 16th 1831

Dear Sir,

Some time since I was informed by letters from M^r Runyon, and from my niece Anne Blount, of Edenton, that you had recovered from a very severe attack of the Gout, and that Olivia was married to M^r Grymes⁴⁰ a son, as I presume of my old school-mate William Grymes, of Pitt County—I tender to you, to Olivia, & to M^r Grymes my very sincere and most hearty congratulations on such joyous occasions as those of your recovery, and of her marriage: Olivia, so well calculated by nature and by cultivation, as well as by disposition and habit to be happy herself, cannot fail to confer the great boon of happiness on her husband and his four children: with the control and management of children, who have lost their mothers, she is quite at home, as you & I have witnessed in her conduct towards your grand-children, with you, when last I was at your house, a house, and the good order of it, as well as its inmates, so much like a heaven and happiness, that it was with difficulty I could leave it—have not heard, but presume, that M^r Grymes will settle at Washington, where, you and Olivia can see & enjoy the society of each other, daily, as heretofore—if there is any heaven here below for a parent, it is in his having his children near and around him, where he can daily be in the midst of them, making a heaven to them, whilst they, by

⁴⁰For Bryan Grimes see 1830, n. 1.

their good and affectionate conduct and treatment daily & hourly, make a heaven for him—such a situation is, and ever was yours & that of yours, and my hope and belief is, that it will continue with you & yours thro' life—my family being all gone I now know from experience that such, my once situation, is changed to one of grief and sorrow, for my loss of them: both my daughters are dead, but they left me five grand-children & their kind & affectionate fathers, who, as well as their children, are great comforters to me, & to each other—

(2) The death of Major Baker, about two years ago has left a great void in my society: the death of my oldest daughter, just before his, and the death of my youngest daughter, just after his, made other voids never to be filled for my enjoyments: my philosophy, however, is that I must bear these things as well and with as much fortitude as I can, tho' I am poorly calculated to enforce the necessary philosophy and bearing up under such heavy losses—my grand-children, since the death of their mothers, lives with their great grand-mother M^{rs} Baker who lives in sight of us, so that we see each other daily—how the present long confinement, by illness, of M^{rs} Baker will eventuate, is as yet doubtful, she, for several weeks, has not been able to turn herself in her bed: we hope, however, that she is on the mend within a few days past—owing to the above alluded to courses, so afflicting to me, I offer them as reasons for my not having written to you oftener—my affection for you is as great as it can be.

M^r Caruthers is punctual with me, agreeably to your liberal instructions. my claim before Congress is still pending, and was, the session before the last, reported favorably on to the House of Rep^{ts}, where, it still is, so far back on docket, that it was not reached at the last session—Am glad to see, by the papers, that there is a good prospect of your claims on the french government being allowed—The great and important services of Gen^l Jackson to the Gov^t & People of the U.S. as evinced by the success of his undertakings shew his fitness for his station, & will, I trust, lead to his re-election by an increased majority—he has done well to reorganize his Cabinet, & his new Cabinet is a good one⁴¹—they will do their duty, without projecting about next President, as I hope & believe; if however, contrary to this hope & belief they, or any of them should fall into the vortex of President making, as others have to some extent done, Jackson has energy enough and love of country enough to give them their walking papers as he has done to others—I think that Calhoun, Ber-

⁴¹Jackson's new cabinet consisted of Edward Livingston, secretary of state; Lewis Cass, secretary of war; Louis McLane, secretary of the treasury; Levi Woodbury, secretary of the navy; and Roger B. Taney, attorney general. Van Deusen, *Jacksonian Era*, 246.

rien,⁴² Branch & Ingham⁴³ have hurt their former standing with the Public, whilst Van Buren & Eaton have raised & increased their standing by their services & magnanimity—and I think that Crawford has curried the ticks off Calhoun,⁴⁴ McDuffie⁴⁵ &c. &c. with (3) great severity & to their injury, whilst he has raised himself with the public—I have never believed a word said with the unhallowed purpose of blasting the reputation of M^{rs} Eaton⁴⁶ (of my acquaintance) who is a virtuous, intelligent, & amiable woman: nor have I, for a moment, ever believed that Jackson ever attempted to control social intercourse—he was, is, and ever will be superior to all such folly, and will ever be, as he ever was, superior to his enemies—his standing, for worth and good conduct, & capacity & will to do good more, and more, is higher than it ever was—

The advocates for Nullification⁴⁷ should get an amendment to the Constitution effected, in the mode pointed out in the Constitution for its amendment, to authorize a State to nullify an act of Congress: for the present, a State has no such power: if all the States were, short of such

⁴² John M. Berrien of Georgia was Jackson's attorney general from 1829 to 1831. Van Deussen, *Jacksonian Era*, 31-32, 46.

⁴³ Samuel D. Ingham of Pennsylvania was Jackson's secretary of the treasury from 1829 to 1831. Van Deussen, *Jacksonian Era*, 31, 46.

⁴⁴ Calhoun, secretary of war during Monroe's administration, had urged censuring Jackson in 1818 for invading Spanish Florida. William Crawford, then secretary of the treasury, was fearful of Jackson's growing political popularity and agreed. Only John Quincy Adams defended Jackson. Jackson mistakenly believed, however, that Calhoun had been his major defender, and Calhoun encouraged this impression for years. Controversy over Calhoun's actions in 1818 arose during Jackson's first administration when Calhoun's true position was revealed by Crawford. Jackson thoroughly distrusted his vice-president thereafter. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 169; Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire*, 366-369, 472n.

⁴⁵ George McDuffie (1790-1851) was a South Carolina Democrat who served in both the United States House of Representatives (1821-1834) and Senate (1842-1846). He was a political cohort of Calhoun and helped support the *Jeffersonian*, an anti-Jackson newspaper, following Jackson's cabinet reorganization. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1533; Van Deussen, *Jacksonian Era*, 46.

⁴⁶ For Peggy Eaton see 1812, n. 9; 1831, nn. 28, 29.

⁴⁷ John C. Calhoun's abstract doctrine of nullification, formulated between 1828 and 1829, led eventually to the passage of the Ordinance of Nullification by a South Carolina convention on November 24, 1832. This ordinance nullified the federal tariff acts of 1828 and 1832 and spelled out the procedures for enforcing nullification. The tariff of 1828, called the "Tariff of Abominations," was particularly objectionable to the South Carolinians because of its exceptionally high duties. Andrew Jackson's strong stand in favor of federal authority and Henry Clay's Compromise Tariff of 1833 caused the South Carolinians to rescind the ordinance, but not until it appeared that civil war might erupt between South Carolina and the United States. Nullification was not popular in North Carolina, but many North Carolinians, especially in the southern piedmont, resented Jackson's threat to use force against a state. Margaret L. Coit, *John C. Calhoun: American Portrait* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., Sentry Edition, 1950), 181-191, 229-230; Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina*, 328; Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 171-172.

an amendment of the Constitution, to express, in any other manner, their consent to a State's power to nullify an act of Congress it would be of no avail: our Gov^t is to be administered & the laws are to be enforced as the Constitution provides for and directs, and in that way only—M^r Calhoun will have to write again, & better sense, before he succeeds.

I hope that the Southampton contagion⁴⁸ will not reach your State, or vicinity—

For several years last past I have led so sedentary a life, in making a written Digest of the provisions of the State & U. S. Constitutions, and of universal Geography as well as of the modes of Gov^t in Europe, Asia, Africa, & America N. & South, also of Topography, with sketches of history, & of biography, in common-place order, for my own edification, & for that of my grand-children, that I have taken so little out-door exercise that my health, for the last nine months, has been so much impaired that I have been obliged to have recourse to a course of medicine, and am still feeble, tho' much on the mend—this debility may prevent me from visiting you as early as I wished to do and intended to have done, if in health—my fondness for reading & writing, & devotion thereto has impaired my health five times, before this—the age of 62 years, however, admonishes me to be more prudent for the future—the same, admonishes me to avoid long journeys, unless in good health—a delicate state of health, for more than ten years last past, has prevented me from engaging in active out-door pursuits, tho' seldom really confined by sickness—

Tell Thomas that I hope the necessity for sitting up with him on the occasion of the birth of his first born child has, before this, ceased, as it may be he has, by this time, another—tender our love to the family & am affectionately

Yours
Willie Blount

J. G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

[No address]

⁴⁸For the Nat Turner insurrection see 1831, n. 39.

James H. Causten to John Gray Blount

BALTIMORE Octr 22^d 1831

John G. Blount Esq^r

Washington N. C.

Dear Sir:

I take pleasure in presenting the pamphlet and printed copy of M^r Livingston's opinion, herewith—the letter in confidence.

I shall go to Washington tomorrow for the purpose of consulting wit M^r Livingston on the propriety of requesting the President to make favorable mention of the claims referred to in his next message to Congress; and to profit by his advice as to the course I should adopt to secure the passage of our Bill next winter—which *must* then be obtained.

The result of my visit shall be communicated to you on my return.

With much respect and regard

I am, Dear Sir,

Yr Most ob Serv^t

James H Causten

[No address]

G. Dutton to John Gray Blount

NEWBERN N. C. Novr 9th 1831

Sir,

Your proposal dated 11th October ulto. for supplying wood at Shell Castle has been duly considered. although no other proposals have been sought by me yet I am confident that any quantity of wood great or small can be conveyed from here or the Creeks in the Neighborhood to the Swash for the sum of \$2.00 pr Cord, freight & wood of the best quality purchased for \$1.00 the Cord.

If therefore the price of \$3.00 pr Cord will be received by you for 150 Cords good pitch pine wood delivered at Shell Castle, I will receive that quantity on those terms

The circumstance of this delay in answering your last letter is attributable to my having since then been closely engaged at the Swash

I am Sir very respectfully
your Obt Servant
G. Dutton
Lt Engr

Jno G. Blount Esqr
Washington N.C.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq
Washington
N.C.

Willie Blount to John Gray Blount

Nov 24th 1831

Dear Sir,

A few days after the date of my last letter to you M^{rs} Baker died, which has made a great void in our Society, never to be filled—She was an amiable, managing, valuable woman: with her my grand children lived, and their situation, under her motherly kindness towards them, was, for them, an eligible one—they are the sole legatees in the wills of both Major & M^{rs} Baker—their fathers are sole executors under those wills, & under their judicious management of that estate, no way incumbered, it will make the situation of those children comfortable: their fathers are men of mind, of industry, of integrity, of good feelings, and of good habits, and commendable conduct—they continue their children at school, as before M^{rs} Baker's death, and at the same place, under the same teacher who attends to them (2) as she and they (the children) live in the same house which is in sight of ours. This care, together with the daily attention of their fathers towards them will, I trust, be all-sufficient to lead those children in the right way to improvement and usefulness, as well as to their comfort—they are healthy and promising little ones, attentive to what is said to them for their improvement, and loving to each other—

M^{rs} Baker was, prior to her death, the only survivor of the family of Major Baker, and now, as above said, she is gone—Our county-town, Clarksville, at the junction of Red river & Cumberland, is improving very fast in good buildings, society, and commerce, with some attention, on the part of its inhabitants, towards the promotion of education—

steamboat navigation is a great thing to any country where it is in use—Rail-Roads seem to be the [illegible]: are you doing any thing in Carolina towards bringing them to your aid? I feel a lively interest in the trade & prosperity of (3) Carolina my native & beloved State—love to you & to your sons & daughters, and to your & their families, and also to other friends, and am

affectionately yours
Willie Blount

John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount

BERTIE COUNTY 3^d Dec^r 1831

Mr Jn^o G. Blount

Dear Sir

I herewith Send you the proceedings of the meetings of Both Stock Holders & Directors—

You will note the Instructions which the Stock Holders thought proper to give the Directors—The complaints on this Side of the present contractors & the reports of the State of the road bro^t by the persons who attended from the Lower Side together with the great Lapse of Time since the road Should have been done by Contract rendered the Stock Holders deaf to every suggestion to give the present contractors a fixed time to complete them in after which the road Should be taken from & Let out to others if not completed—The meeting was unusually Large 168 Shares being voted on—

Mr Clark & Mr Satchwell were Left out I believe at their own request & Mess^{rs} Satterthwaite & Jn^o R Davis elected to Supply their places, & Mr Jordan Walker⁴⁹ in his Fathers place—I Should have written you

⁴⁹Jordan Walker is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of four. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 44.

Sooner but have been So constantly from home that I have had no opportunity untill now—

I am with much respect,

Yr M O Sert J. G. Roulhac

(2)

At a meeting of the Stock Holders of the Plym^o Turnpike Company held at Plym^o on the 22nd of Nov^r 1831 the following persons were elected directors for the ensuing year (viz) Joseph B G Roulhac Jas Satterthwaite Jordan Walker Jn^o G Roulhac & Jn^o R. Davis—

In as much as it has been made appear to the Stock Holders of the Company that the parties formerly contracting with the Company for the completion of the Turnpike Road, have failed to perform their engagement with the Company, the Stock Holders in general meeting hereby instruct the Directors to advertise, that, at February court of 1832 of Washington County at Plymouth, the completion of the Contracts of Said Road will be let out on the Tuesday of Said Court to the Lowest bidder & that the amount So contracted to be paid to the new contractors Shall be charged to & be deducted from the amount which was to have been paid to the original contractors for Said Road, had they done their duty on Said Road—

The meeting was then adjourned to next annual meeting

(3)

At a meeting of the Directors of the Plymouth Turnpike Company at Plymouth 22nd Nov 1831—

Present

Jos B G Roulhac
Jordan Walker
John G Roulhac

The Directors in conformity with the instructions of the Stock Holders in general meeting, order that their Secretary forthwith give notice that at Feb^y Term of Washington County Court 1832 the completion of the Turnpike Road will be Let out to the Lowest bidder at Plym^o & that the amount contracted to be paid for the completion of the road will be charged upon the first contractors for Said Road—

It is ordered that the Treasurer be instructed to have printed a Sum of Blank certificates of Stock and when ever the payments for Stock Shall have been made by the Subscribers or their representatives, that the Treasurer Shall forthwith Issue certificates for Said Stock to Such Subscribers.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at Feb^y Court 1832—

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington
NC

Form Letter from James H. Causten

WASHINGTON CITY, December 22, 1831.

Dear Sir:

It affords me the highest pleasure to be enabled to give you very cheering intelligence with respect to the French spoliation claims which originated prior to the 30th of September, 1800.

I availed myself of the first opening of the present session of Congress, to profit by the advice of Mr. Secretary Livingston, whose good offices in this cause have been gratefully recognised in my former communications to the claimants. He has rendered me essential service more recently, and renewed direct assurances of aid to the end—in the zeal and sound judgment he manifests, my entire wishes have been gratified.

Early in November last, I sought and obtained an interview with Mr. Livingston, and submitted to him a question as to the propriety of the claimants soliciting the President to make favourable mention of their claims in his opening message—he held the proposition under advisement; and, in order to strengthen the motives which suggested it, I addressed to him, some days after, a written communication of an argumentative character, and calculated for the eye of the President, if he should elect to give it that direction. The first object of this proposition was not adopted—and for good reasons; but its most essential object (to excite inquiry into the merits of the subject, and obtain for the parties interested a correspondent good feeling) has been fully realized.

In an interview subsequently with the President, I brought to his notice the deep solicitude felt by the parties, the intense anxiety with which they looked to his message, and the painful disappointment they had experienced on finding the claims passed over, &c.

He treated the subject with great delicacy—said that his predecessors might with propriety have recommended the claims to the consideration of Congress; but that since the commencement of his administration the subject had been pending in Congress, and for that reason, it would have been unbecoming in him to have interfered;—that in his situation it would be improper to express an opinion either for or against the claims, nor must he be understood as doing so; but that when the subject should come to him, (and he must have meant, by a bill passed by Congress,) he would act justly to all.

I need only add, that I was convinced he was our friend; which has been fully confirmed by the subsequent acts of several of his most influential friends in Congress, and more particularly by those of the Secretary of State. Nevertheless, it has been, and shall be, my constant aim to prevent the subject becoming an affair of party; with which it has

nothing to do; and besides, most of our friends are to be found in the opposition—of which fact some proof was afforded in the short discussion in the House some days ago, in which Mr. Adams (the late President) and Mr. Everett⁵⁰ took part; and of which a much stronger proof is seen (though not yet made public) by a comparison in the Senate, which will appear in good time. In thus having the aid of the great political parties, without either taint or suspicion of partiality or prejudice to one or the other, may be viewed as singular good fortune.

The only difficulty with the friends of the administration is, to so guard our bill that it shall not conflict with the settled policy of discharging the public debt in the shortest possible time, say in 1833—with the propriety and soundness of which, we have nothing to do.

Inasmuch as the Board of Commissioners for which the bill provides shall set (filling the blank with *three*) three years in auditing the claims, so that difficulty is effectually removed with our entire assent—leaving the friends of the administration in a body in our favour.

The friends of the Tariff, who are very numerous, will see, *without my aid*, that their cause will be promoted by keeping up a demand for revenue; and they will be justified in that course by engaging to discharge so prominent and so just an item of the *floating* debt of the nation—on their support much reliance may be placed, and without solicitation.

Those who are opposed to a division of the surplus revenue among the states, a very numerous class—those opposed to internal improvements at the public expense—those opposed to an extensive national system of education—those opposed to the extension of Executive patronage by the creation of establishments which (2) would add to Executive influence—and various other classes, would throw much weight into our scale. And last, though not least, our own friends are already strengthened in their support of our cause by the daily acquisition of advocates from all quarters. And in truth, the contest seems now to be, who shall have the credit of discharging these claims, and thereby redeeming the character of the nation from the stain of injustice long and unwisely affixed to it. To such a degree has this spirit already advanced that I should find it more easy to name twenty of its advocates in Congress than one opponent.

The bill of last year was introduced into the Senate, on motion of Mr. Wilkins,⁵¹ three days ago, and was read a first and second time without

⁵⁰For Edward Everett see 1826, n. 9.

⁵¹William Wilkins (1779-1865) of Pennsylvania, formerly a United States congressman, was elected to the United States Senate as a Democrat and Anti-Mason, serving from 1831 to 1834. Wilkins later served as secretary of war during the Tyler administration. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 2014.

the slightest indication of opposition. By the rules of the Senate, all bills containing an appropriation, must pass under the examination of a committee; and accordingly, this bill, with the sum in blank, was referred to a select committee, consisting of Mr. Wilkins, Mr. Webster, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Dudley, and Mr. Brown⁵²—all of whom are our ardent friends. The bill will be promptly reported to the Senate by the committee, either with or without amendment; and will most probably contain an augmentation of appropriation beyond that of five millions of dollars, contained in Mr. Livingston's bill of last session. Upon the whole, it may be said with confidence, that a law will be obtained during the present session of Congress, *by proper efforts on our part*; to suggest which is the main object of this letter.

This is the moment for action—the first of a new Congress; a long session before us; a good feeling in active operation; the public debt in effect extinguished; a large surplus revenue, which is a stumbling block to all parties; judicious proceedings already commended under the most flattering circumstances; all the drudgery and causes for delay performed and removed; and the highest functionaries of the nation our advocates. And now, if my judgment is worthy of any consideration, it depends *solely* on the claimants themselves whether they shall be paid or not.

If the propitious circumstances I have glanced at should be permitted to pass by without becoming efforts on the part of the claimants, while I should never cease to regret their strange delusion, the consolation would yet remain to me, that I have been true to their cause and faithful to their interest. I will give the timely caution, and with the best admonition my judgment can furnish. It has been suggested by some of our friends in Congress, and therefore entitled to great consideration, that an idea exists and has in some degree been circulated, that large speculations have been made in these claims; and that such an impression is calculated to make a very unfavourable feeling, particularly in the House. I have met these suggestions with a prompt and explicit denial, stating, that in all my experience I have no knowledge, nor have I heard, nor do I

⁵²Daniel Webster (1782-1852) represented Massachusetts at this time in the United States Senate (1827-1841). A Whig, Webster also served as secretary of state during the Harrison and Tyler administrations. Ezekiel F. Chambers (1788-1867), a Whig from Maryland, served in the United States Senate from 1826 to 1834, when he resigned. He was later offered but declined the post of secretary of navy in Millard Fillmore's cabinet. Charles Edward Dudley (1780-1841) of New York replaced Martin Van Buren in the United States Senate when the latter became Jackson's secretary of state in 1829. Dudley served from 1829 to 1831. Bedford Brown (1795-1870) was a lawyer and planter from North Carolina. A Jacksonian Democrat, he served in the United States Senate from 1829 to 1840, resigning in the latter year. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 897, 963, 1005, 1987.

believe, that a single case of purchase or sale exists—that a few individuals in the interior, whose necessities pressed heavily upon them, have heretofore (none recently) applied to me by letter to find purchasers for their claims, upon the allegation that their wants did not admit of the delay which the tardy movements of Congress occasioned. In every instance I promptly declined, and advised them that my duty pointed out the propriety of keeping the claims in first hands as far as possible, and that I would not, under any circumstances, aid or countenance the transfer of any claim. I had recommended in the strongest terms their reliance on the justice of their government, which would, I was well convinced, come speedily to their relief: that their cause was in good progress, success was certain, and would arrive within a shorter period than they had supposed; and that I had reason to believe that such advice had been adopted—reiterating the assurance that I knew of no sale whatever. In support of this declaration, I have handed to the Printer of the proceedings of Congress, for publication, a descriptive list of the memorials in my charge, and now before the Senate, being 145, and signed by more than 400 persons. I have given a similar list to the chairman of the select committee, to whom our bill has been referred, with a request that he will, by motion, call up said Memorials, and have them referred to said committee, which he will do on Tuesday next—and then the Printer will publish said list among the proceedings of the day, as a matter in course. Much good will result from this, not only in showing the fact (which will be news to all the new members, and not less so to many others, and to the public) that Memorials have been sent in from *nineteen* States and the District of Columbia, but will also show that the parties thereto comprise the principal Merchants of the country, and are therefore entitled to respectful consideration.

It may be said, and has often been said by lukewarm claimants, that there are Memorials enough before Congress; but in this there is great danger. The inference will be, that the claims which do not appear by memorial are those held by *speculators*, and for that reason kept out of view. And a declaration to that effect, made by an opponent in Congress, would strike a vital part which no medicine could reach, if there were even (3) time left to seek it, which would not be the case. If the question were put, and probably will be put, to some of our friends in Congress, whether all the claimants within their districts, (or their knowledge) have appeared by Memorial,—and a negative answer be given, as would be under present circumstances; the inference would be irresistible, that those who have held back are the speculators—and against such an inference, the declaration of the representative, added to those of the

interested (as would be supposed,) agent, would not weigh a feather. On this point I feel deep solicitude; and I avail myself of the opportunity this letter affords, to earnestly recommend to those to whom it is addressed, to urge in strong terms those claimants who have *not yet signed Memorials*, to do so forthwith. It is but just that those who shall become subscribers, should contribute in advance to meet the current expenses; and it is presumed, that such as can, without inconvenience, will do so—such as are unable, or unwilling to do so, (as in cases heretofore,) are invited to sign the papers, and I will make the necessary advance for them,—presuming that none will take an undue advantage of this exemption. The Memorial and letter enclosed, should be executed as marked in pencil, (without stating either the property lost or the sum claimed, nor is any proof required at this time,) and sent to my address at Washington,—sealed, and under cover to the “Hon. Benjamin C. Howard,⁵³ Member of Congress, Washington City”—in this shape they will come safe and free from postage.

I would further suggest the propriety of every claimant addressing letters to the Senators from his State, (it requires neither personal acquaintance nor introduction to do this,) representing that he has an interest in the subject, and soliciting the aid of such Senator to the passage of said bill—the letter need not, unless most agreeable to the writer, describe the merits of the claimants pretensions; it will be sufficient to state in general the hardship of the case, and the acknowledged responsibility on the Government—these letters had better be sent directly to the Senators by mail. Similar letters addressed to their Representatives in the House, should be prepared and sent to me, (with the Memorials, &c. in the manner before mentioned, taking care that the packets do not exceed *two* ounces each,) that I may use them to advantage, the moment the bill when passed by the Senate shall come into the House. By means of such memorials and letters, more advantage would be secured than any one not conversant with the matter could suppose—and besides, they would convert what are now dead weight, into active auxiliaries—and may, under circumstances which may take place, prove the salvation of the cause:—and in this latter view the present requisition and admonition should be regarded by all. In short, I should be happy to see the rule by which your agent acts, observed as a principle by the claimants also, viz: that nothing is done while any thing remains to be done.

This is doubtless the last time I shall have occasion to ask for help, which I assure you I deem necessary, and I feel persuaded you will

⁵³ Benjamin Chew Howard (1791-1872) was a Maryland Democrat who served in the United States House of Representatives from 1829 to 1833, and from 1835 to 1839. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1335-1336.

afford it with pleasure. And, relying on your exertions, pledging myself to do all that my zeal and industry can accomplish, and repeating my well-advised and settled conviction of success,

I remain, dear sir, with much respect,
Your most obedient servant,
James H Causten

P.S. Having made myself familiar with the subjects connected with these claims, I shall undertake the final settlement of them, under the contemplated law before the Commissioners for whom it provides. If my zeal and industry will recommend me to your favour, I shall be glad to serve you in that way for a reasonable compensation.

And in like manner, I shall undertake the final settlement of claims under the provisions of the yet unratified treaty with France⁵⁴—and respectfully solicit your patronage in either class of claims.

It is my particular request that this communication shall not reach the press.

[No address]

A Form Letter to Congress about French Spoliation Claims

PORT OF WASHINGTON, N. C.
30th December 1831

Sir,

The undersigned, Citizens of North Carolina, and residing at or near the port aforesaid, are deeply interested in the *Claims* now pending before Congress for French Spoliations anterior to the year 1800—and which were, by the *United States*, for valuable *national benefits* and considerations, *relinquished to France*, in and by the Conventional arrangement between the two Governments of that date—beg leave to address you as one of the [blank] of our State, upon this—to us—all interesting subject.

⁵⁴For all of the details concerning the negotiation of the Franco-American Treaty of 1831 by William Cabell Rives (a diplomat from Virginia) and the subsequent difficulties between the United States and France, see Richard A. McLemore, *Franco-American Diplomatic Relations, 1816-1836* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1941), 43-91, 175-211 passim. Also see 1823, n. 17. McLemore's book is the most thorough study of this episode, but it stops with France's payment of the money to the United States and fails to discuss how the money was distributed to American claimants.

We must believe that your high standing in Society and your well known integrity and love of justice, is the cause of your filling your present elevated stations; and we hope you will excuse us for earnestly soliciting *your attention to this subject*, at this moment—in as much, as the small interest which *North Carolina* has generally had in commerce, might lead you to suppose that *her Citizens* were but little if at all interested in those claims, and consequently you might feel less concerned in their fate than otherwise you might.

In the just claim of "*Indemnity*" from the *United States*, for our property, taken and applied by our Government to the "*public use*," consists the only hope of relief of some of us, from the embarrassment and penury caused by our losses, and we may add, our only hope of future comfort.

Ours, is indeed a case of peculiar hardship and wrong. By the public Treaties and Laws of the United States, we were invited and encouraged to embark our property upon the Seas, in a trade authorized and honorable, and assured of National protection and safety; but notwithstanding all this, we were cruelly and shamefully plundered of our property by the Officers and Agents of the French Government. The sufferers complained to the Government of their country: the *Government demanded redress*:—France *acknowledged the wrong* and professed herself *willing and ready to compensate us for our losses* as soon as the United States restored to her her lost Colonies in the West Indies, and otherwise fulfilled and executed, in good faith, those Treaties, which bound this Republic to guarantee forever to France, the said Colonies, and secured to her, certain belligerent rights; but the execution and fulfillment of which would infallibly have ruined this Country forever. That *National benefit*, beyond all price, which millions could not purchase, to wit *the release of the United States from those treaty stipulations* (which were, in truth, the price of friendship and assistance of France in the War of Independence) was obtained, by *relinquishing to France by the United States, all our claims of Indemnity, from her*, for our said losses. This stroke of policy, was more fortunate for our common country: it secured the National repose: prevented countless wars and much bloodshed: accelerated the onward march of the United States in prosperity and wealth, and contributed no little to the friendly arrangement with France, *which made Louisiana ours* (an acquisition, worth to the Republic, hundreds of millions of dollars)—and yet strange to tell, notwithstanding this direct application of *our property to the "public use,"* by the Government of the United States, the sufferers have been permitted to pine in want and sorrow, and for years, to linger at their doors for justice! And why should they be so hardly dealt by? The CONSTITUTION and JUSTICE, both, have loudly demanded, in the face of the whole world, *indemnity for us, from the National Treasury*. Have any others, whose property has been pressed into the service of the Country, been thus treated? Ah

no! If an Ox, or a Horse, an acre of Land or a Waggon, has at any time been taken from a private citizen for "the public use," payment has been made from the National fund, as soon as demanded;—but *for our property*, which actually procured peace, prosperity, wealth, territory and *States* for the Republic NO PAYMENT, AS YET HAS BEEN MADE!

France has again (lately) made honorable *Indemnity* for the acknowledged—only remaining claims upon her, from this Government; and doubtless would have included in it *Indemnity for us also*, if it had not been understood and admitted by both Governments, that *she had long since fully satisfied the United States, for our claims*: the justness of which and her liability for them, she never denied.

We flatter ourselves, that our losses and sufferings, so long endured, and which have so greatly benefitted the whole people of the United States, merits and will now receive the favourable attention of the Representatives of our State. We will not trouble you with a statement of the facts nor an argument concerning the justness of our individual claims; as these, are more proper subjects for the examination of the Board of Investigation. But we do beg leave respectfully to refer you to the able and lucid Reports, made to the Senate by Mr. Livingston, as Chairman of a Committee, when charged with an examination of the general question of the *liability of the United States*; and also to the other Reports of a similar character, made and to be made upon the subject. We do this in the positive belief that you will discover that *our "property"* has been "taken for the *public use*," and that *just indemnity*, according to the CONSTITUTION is justly *due to us*.

Shall it be said, and especially *now* that the United States demands promptly full and exact justice of every other Government upon Earth—and *have obtained it*, with a solitary and inconsiderable exception or two—and yet—WITHHOLDS it from their own Citizens!! We ask, shall it be said so *now*, when the *funded debt* of the United States may be said to be paid? Shall it be said so *now*, when *this*, is the only Government in existence out of debt? Shall it be said, that *her suffering Citizens*, whose *Claims*, are in truth and in fact, and ought to be considered *public debt*, of the most sacred character, are driven away, *unpaid*, in defiance of the obligations of the Constitution and of Justice? We will not believe it: but should it be so, we will confidently hope that no Representative from North Carolina will sanction such conduct by his countenance or vote.

We are, with much respect,
Your ob't. serv'ts.

To the Hon.

in Congress.

[No address]

1832

Isaac Simpson¹ to John Gray Blount

January the 22th Day 1832

Mr J. G. Blount sir I shall git Dun the Cross wooding this week if we have good weather and Between the Cross wooding and green hamoch thar wonts A Bundance of work as the Road is very [manuscript torn] and I wish you to write me how far I must work as I wont your Road of from your hands as I am A doing the Best I Can for you I am your well wisher and humble servent

Isaac Simpson

Mr
Addressed: J. G. Blount
Beufort County
Washington N.C.

B. W. Daniel to William Augustus Blount

ADJUTANT GENERALS OFFICE
RALEIGH JAN^y 24 1832

Sir

I have your letter of the 18 Instant enclosing an obligation signed by J. Y. Bonner² & others for the Muskets what were delivered to you under an order from this office addressed to J. J. Pasteur agent of arms at New bern—The transfer of those arms to the use of the “Durham Creek Guard” and the obligation now presented for their preservation & return are approved—

By order of the Commander
in Chief—

B. W. Daniel
Adj Gen¹

¹The 1820 census lists three men named Isaac Simpson, one in Mecklenburg, one in Onslow, and one in Perquimans county. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Mecklenburg County, 64; Onslow County, 33; Perquimans County, 23.

²John Y. Bonner is listed in the 1820 census as the head of the household of six in Beaufort County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 7.

To Cap^t William A Blount
Washington, NC

[No address]

Receipt to William Augustus Blount

PHILADELPHIA, Jan 26 1832

Gen^l W. A. Blount, Washington, N.C.

TO THE BANNER OF THE CONSTITUTION, DR.

For Subscription from 1 Decem 1830

To 1 Decem 1831

\$5

Received payment, Jany. 26—1832

Condy Raguet

John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount

BERTIE COUNTY 23 Feb 1832

Mr John G. Blount

Dear Sir

I would have written you from Plym^o but was at a Loss what to write nor do I Know what to Say about your part of the road. On the rec^t of yours of the 9th I wrote Mess^{rs} Satterthwaite & Davis requesting them to come through examine & report to the Directors at Plym^o—They came over it but did not appear to Know what to Say of it—It was not put up in consequence of your Letter to me & of their expressing Some wish that Inspectors Should be Sent on it—However Just before they went away Mr Satterthwaite told me that it was done about as well as that part which Mr Clark had worked on—I was Left completely in the dark by the Directors whether I was to Let you Know that it was considered complete or whether further time was allowed for inspection—

March Court at Plymouth comes on in about 3 weeks when it will be Settled at that time as the directors are to meet to Let out the cutting of a Ditch to coniby if a Sufficiency of Stock shall be Subscribed as books are ordered to be opened till then—Enclosed is your acc^t amounting to

\$1210.80 Leaving a Balance due when the road is accepted of \$289.20—Mr Elys part of the road went off at \$1198 to Henry Davis (2) from Pungo River—He Says that it will be done in 2½ months from the 1st of May at the end of which time I hope to See Gates across the road—If the Subscription Should prove Short may we Look to Washington for any help—The ditch will be 1/2 Miles Long at the Least & I think Should be 8 or 10 Feet wide & about 2 or 3 deep—

With much respect yr
M O Sert J. G. Roulhac

(3) Mr John G. Blount

1830

To Plym^o Turnpike Company Dr

May 27	To Cash pd you through M. J. Clark—	375
Nov 17	do Sam ^l Clark—	375
	y ^r assumpsit of acct. Sent you to collect—	440
	Pd you through Tho ^s Walker—	<u>20.80</u>
		\$1210.80

E.E.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Washington N. C.

John Gray Blount to John G. Roulhac

WASHINGTON March 10th 1832

Dear Sir

I have seen M^r Satterthite who informs me that both him and M^r John R Davis examined my part of the Turnpike as they retur'd home from Plymouth & are of opinion that it is compleated equal to M^r Clarks part that had been approved & agreeable to the Contract I therefore hope their report will be taken if not that Inspectors will be sent immediately to examine it so that I can be paid the ball^e & be discharged from my Contract Should my part the Road be received you will please pay the ballance due me to M^r John Hawkes [sic] who will deliver this first ading to the amount stated 1½\$ paid the Printer as p^r Receipt herewith

I have kept no account therefore presume the Account as stated by you to be correct. I am of opinion that a Ditch to Coneby ought to be cut

sufficiently large & long to take the water from the west end the Road but may it not be well to see if a six feet ditch one mile will not answer the purpose & if not it can be enlarged & extended from the tolls & to attempt too much may loose all for you must not count on Subscriptions for Shares from this Quarter where all are alarmed already for fear of loosing both Inhabitants & trade by that Turnpike (2) And should it have that effect Plymouth ought to move than cut the Canal or Ditch wanted

I am with much esteem
your most Obed
J G. Blount

[Note scribbled at the bottom]

discovered an Error as I supposed I sent a Copy of my Ac^t to see if it was so & unless Roulhac sent me more mony by blank than 375\$ there must be a mistake

Addressed: John G Roulhac Esquire
Plymouth

favor'd by
John Hawks Esq^r

James Caruthers to John Gray Blount

JACKSON March 22, 1832

Dr Sir

Yours of the 7th Ult. arrived last mail, giving your views on Gov. Carroll'[s]^a office to exchange his Nashville property, for Western Dis^t land. I will hasten to communicate to him the substance of your remarks, but without any expectation of its being of any avail. Since writing you I have enquired of good judges of property there, what that particular property could be sold for, and am informed that five thousand in cash, or six or seven on 1, 2 & 3 years would be as much as it would command. The Gov. did not reply to the offer made him by me, & communicated to you in my last—In my letter of July 12, 1831, I gave you all the informa-

^aFor William Carroll see 1814, n. 43.

tion I could get as to Mr Mayo'[s]⁴ land. Mr. G. Bowen letter to him gives its Locality, & a tolerably good discription of the soil, but values it too high as \$2 pr acre. it is not worth more than \$1.50 but the poorest soil here produces well, and if he will be industrious can make a good living on his—I had not untill within the last month, found the tract a part of which Mrs. Person claims, owing to the number of Surveyor offices, & the variety of persons to whom many of these warrants have been transferd—I find It in the 11th Surveyors District, Range 2 & 3 & Section 6 in the South East corner of Tipton County, about 10 or 12 (2) miles south west of Mr Mayo'[s] land—It has been convey^d by the University of N. Carolina, to the Agent Col. Samuel Dickins⁵ about six years since, who says If clear proff can be produced to him that the Peter Harington as kin of whom she claims is the same for whom [manuscript torn] this warrant Issued, He will make a just compromise with her, that is prove in what Cap^t company Regiment &c. he served, or that he was the only man of that name on the army roll, & such proof of her kinship as would do in court. Without such evidence of her tittle as stated he (Dickins) will make no compromise, and a suit would be attended with much expence & just delay. If any other, or better proof, can be had than that already [illegible] she can forward it, & I will do for her all I can to process the law, & charge her nothing more than what costs I may have to expend in the transaction—

I have not made any sales since I last wrote you. Lands are offering so low on long credits, that it seems almost impossible to sell for cash at any price—a man in Haywood is expecting his relation daily, & when he comes calculates to take the 4,000 [illegible] at one dollar pr acre, but no reliance you Kno need be made, on those (3) kind of calculations

Yours respectfully
Ja. Caruthers

Addressed: Jno. G. Blount Esq.
Washington
N. Carolina

⁴This might refer to Private John Mayo, who received a land warrant for 640 acres on the south side of the Cumberland River. He in turn assigned it to William Cockran, who received a land grant on November 30, 1790. Whether Private John Mayo is the same John Mayo who resided at Shell Castle is unclear. Land Warrant 2749 and Land Grant 1193, Tennessee State Archives. Also see 1805, n. 4.

⁵Samuel Dickens, born in Person County, North Carolina, served as a state legislator (1813-1815, 1818), and briefly as a United States congressman (1816-1817). Dickens, a surveyor, land speculator, and the agent for lands in Tennessee belonging to the University of North Carolina, moved to Madison County, Tennessee, in 1820, where he acquired a fortune through his land deals. He died in 1840. Hoyt, *Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*, I, 88, 165, 175-176, 248, 251, 259, 263; *Who Was Who*, 218.

Receipt to John Gray Blount from John D. Toomer⁶

[March 26, 1832]

March 26, 1832—Rec^d of John G. Blount esq^r by the hands of M^r Charles B. Jones, Three Thousand Dollars, (\$3000) in part payment of a judgment in the Circuit Court of the U.S. for the district of N.C., in which judg^t Sam^l Richards, as adm^r of Joseph Ball dec^d is pl^{ttf}., & said Blount def^t; on which judg^t an execution was issued, & a levy has been made by the marshall of the U. S. for the district aforesaid; it being expressly understood, that the said Blount is to discharge & fully satisfy all claims of the said marshall for fees or com^s for any process issued under said judg^t, & for any services rendered thereon; the said pl^{ttf}. not intending by receiving a part payment, or by assenting to a postponement of sale, to deprive the said marshall of any fees or com^s or to render himself the said pl^{ttf}. liable in any way for any fees or com^s whatever.

John D. Toomer
pl^{ttf}'s atty.

Form Letter from James H. Causten

WASHINGTON CITY, June 18, 1832

Dear Sir:

In my circular letter of December 22d last, I expressed the firm conviction, that a law for the relief of the sufferers by French spoliations, prior to the year 1800, would be obtained within the present Session of Congress. I am not a little disappointed and mortified that the said expectation has not been realized; but I was fully justified in forming that opinion, from the very favorable sentiments expressed and manifested by members of Congress of all parties, and from all sections. During the progress of the Session, however, two great subjects, the Tariff and

⁶John DeRosset Toomer of Fayetteville represented that town in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1826 and represented Cumberland County in the state Senate in 1831 and 1832. Toomer served as a judge on the state superior court (1819, 1837-1840), and briefly on the state supreme court (1829). He died in 1856. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 288, 296, 298, 361, 817; Wheeler, *Reminiscences of North Carolina*, 148.

United States Bank,⁷ presented a state of things totally different from the anticipations of every one; and the former so entirely absorbed all other interests that they were passed over, at the instance of their most ardent friends—such was the state of feeling and result with respect to the spoliation bill. The stability of the Union itself was made to depend upon the conciliatory modifications of the tariff act, in the discussion of which, its opponents set their faces openly and avowedly against any measure that would, either directly or prospectively, require large sums of money; while on the other hand, its friends and the friends of the Union could only hope to reach a point where the conflicting parties might rest, if not remove their respective objections, by keeping out of view all new appropriations. In this spirit, our bill was postponed, at the instance of its best friends, 'till the next Session of Congress, with the perfect understanding, or pledge of the Senate, that it should then be taken up and disposed of. The bill was then laid on the table, *as partially acted on*, and will come up as unfinished business from day to day, from the commencement of the next Session, till finally disposed of. A postponement of the subject was much against my wishes and efforts, but I had, of course, no control of the matter; and if a postponement from any cause, must take place, (and it was imperative) none could be made under more favorable circumstances than that referred to.

I repeat that I have been disappointed, though there has arisen no cause for despondency or discouragement; but on the contrary, solid ground for increased conviction that compensation will be obtained.

The great questions connected with the Presidency, the Bank, and the Tariff, will be settled before the commencement of the next Session of Congress; and then, being free from these great exciting subjects, and our spoliation claim being well understood, with a large majority of both Houses in its favor, no doubt can exist, of its favorable termination. To these strong motives for continued zeal, I shall superadd my unrelaxed efforts for its accomplishment.

⁷The nullification movement in South Carolina was spawned by the "Tariff of Abominations" (1828). At the time Causten wrote this form letter the tariff of 1832, a milder protective tariff, was being debated in Congress, and it would pass on July 14. Also being debated in June, 1832, was a bill to recharter the second Bank of the United States. After receiving approval from the Senate on June 11 and being passed in the House of Representatives on July 3, President Jackson vetoed the bank bill on July 10. Jackson followed up his veto, which Congress could not override, with a war on the United States bank. Even before the bank's charter expired in 1836 it was seriously weakened by Jackson's hostile actions. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 172-173; Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Bank War*, 67-175 passim. Also see 1831, n. 47.

In my circular letter of the 3d of May, 1831, I proposed 'to resume the publication of explanatory essays, in the public prints, on the approach of the (then) next Session of Congress;' but I found the merits of the claims so well understood, the friends of the bill so decided and numerous, and that some hazard would result from that measure (because of the party character assumed or ascribed to all our public Journals,) it was, on due consideration, deemed prudent to decline it. This cautious course has enabled me to discover from what quarter, and on what points opposition may arise; and thus on resuming such publications (should they be found expedient) direct my expositions to the particular branches of the subject, and in the shape, best calculated to the effect the desired object; the partisan character of our public prints too, will have subsided in a great degree by next winter, when a resort to them will be safer, and thus enable me to steer clear of all party taint, which has always been a primary object in the prosecution of these claims.

In the short discussion on the spoliation bill in the Senate, on the 13th inst., Mr Clay took a position of an extraordinary character, which may have an unfavorable effect on some of the claimants—for this reason I think it well to make a passing remark thus early: Mr Clay is beyond all question, our fast friend, and I am quite sure, will act justly towards us at the proper time, though not yet fully informed of the merits of the subject. He said the claims were worth something, which something he was willing to pay, that is, for so much as the French Government would have paid, but not dollar for dollar to the whole amount of the claims, &c. He might have seen that, as the claims were held to amount to more than ten millions of dollars, and the bill proposed to pay five millions only, so dollar for dollar was not contemplated. But why was it not contemplated, since that alone would be the proper measure of justice?

(2) He will, I am persuaded, entertain a more 'just estimate of the claims, or at least, appreciate them higher under his own rules after reading the following extract, a copy of which I caused to be promptly placed in his hands, viz:

Extract from a communication from Gen. Armstrong,⁸ then American Minister at Paris, to Fulwar Skipwith,⁹ Esq. Consul General of the United States at Paris,

⁸John Armstrong (1758-1843) was a soldier and a diplomat. During the Revolutionary War he left Princeton College, where he was a student, to fight in the Continental Army. Connected by marriage to the powerful Livingston family of New York, he became influential in New York politics and won a seat in the United States Senate in 1800. In 1804 he became minister to France, and in January, 1813, President Madison appointed him secretary of war, a post from which he resigned in an atmosphere of controversy in September, 1814. *DAB*, I, 355-358.

⁹Fulwar Skipwith was a member of a mercantile firm that had offices in London, Paris, and Richmond, Virginia. John Gray Blount did a great deal of business with the firm. Before becoming consul general in Paris, Skipwith acted as a commercial agent in France for the United States. Keith and others, *Blount Papers*, III, 37n.

dated in 1806.—"In the discussion leading to the manner of executing the Convention of 1803, (usually called the Louisiana Convention,) it was proposed by the American Commissioners to distribute the twenty millions of livres, *in just proportions*, among all the claimants, and the project was urged laboriously and long; but to it, the answer of the French Government was uniform; 'we will not part with the right of rejecting such claims, or parts of claims, as we think bad in principle, or deficient in form; we will not pay less than twenty shillings in the pound; we will not stigmatize ourselves as bankrupts.'"

The sincerity of the above declaration cannot be doubted, since the French Government actually stipulated for, and *paid* to the United States, under the provisions of said Convention, for "*debts* due to American citizens," not only the whole sum claimed by the United States, dollar for dollar, but interest also, at six per cent, from the origin of the claims up to the day of payment. The present claimants, therefore, will be content with the rule which the French Government itself has prescribed—and if Mr. Clay adopts it now, it will be no matter of complaint on our part. He has only fallen into the very general error, that France has been uniformly unfaithful and unjust, which a more full investigation of the facts will wholly dissipate.

I have removed my family and office to this city, permanently, and have located myself directly opposite to the State and Treasury Departments, where I shall attend to all business confided in me as an agent, but more particularly to claims against the United States and the several Departments thereof; and with that view, have selected a location most convenient to the public offices.

In establishing an agency here, I have contemplated and concluded a system for the final settlement of claims, including those embraced by the late French treaty, by which the services of an agent may be rendered for less compensation, and perhaps, more promptly and satisfactorily than through any other channel.

A sound, respectable, and industrious gentleman of the bar, in connexion with me, will attend to all claims before the Board of Commissioners to be appointed under said treaty, and all other business requiring legal proceedings; while all the papers and documents shall be prepared by myself, for which branch, my experience and habits seem to peculiarly qualify me; and to make my department more perfect and efficacious, I shall for this special purpose obtain a commission of Notary Public from the President of the United States, which I am now in treaty for and shall secure forthwith. In thus having every part of the business within my own control, and having beside free access to all the archives of the Government, and the Secretary of State, and all his clerks, my ar-

dent friends, make up a sum total of advantages which no other individual is presumed to possess.

Under such a system, claimants will always be promptly attended to, and their business be done cheaper and better than by agents from a distance; whose visits can at least be only occasional, hasty, and not always in good season. In short, agents from distant places cannot give full and ready attention; and unless their reward be so large as to overbalance the expense and inconvenience of frequent visits, and justify their sacrifice of home business, their services cannot be obtained. It is notorious that many claims under the late Florida treaty were lost, in consequence of the non-attendance of the agents to whom they were confided.

I made application to the Secretary of State, some weeks ago, to permit the withdrawal of all the papers and documents deposited in his department by the late commission under the Florida treaty, relating to the *rejected* claims—most of which will now be necessary in the adjustment of claims under the late French treaty; he readily gave his assent; but on examining the treaty first mentioned, he found that he had no right over them. He then submitted the question, at my instance, to the President, with a view to his recommending by message to Congress the passage of an act giving such authority; and the opinion of the Attorney General was taken on the proposition:—which was unfavorable, upon the sole ground that the terms of said treaty made the Department of State the *perpetual* depository of them. Under (3) these circumstances he regretted that he could do nothing more than permit copies to be taken from them, at the expense of the applicant, and that I should always have access to the originals for that purpose—so that I can now furnish notarial copies, when requested.

I shall devote a constant attention, with my accustomed zeal and industry, to all matters confided to my charge; and with a full confidence that I shall render satisfaction to those who may be pleased to place their business in my care, I respectfully solicit your patronage. Having been for several years closely and actively employed in important claims by most of the Merchants and Insurance Companies in the United States, I need only to refer to them in general.

Letters to my address, postpaid, will always receive instant attention.

With much respect, I am,
Your most obedient servant,
James H. Causten

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r

Agency at Washington City
James H. Causten
(Late of Baltimore.)

[July 1, 1832]

Having made this city his permanent residence, and located his dwelling and office directly opposite to the State and Treasury Departments, will undertake, with his accustomed zeal and diligence, the settlement of claims generally; and more particularly, claims before Congress—against the United States or the several Departments thereof—and before any Board of Commissioners, raised or to be raised, for the adjustment of spoliations or other claims:—He has now in charge the entire class arising out of French spoliations prior to the year 1800, and many of those embraced by the treaty lately concluded with the French Government. He has been so long before the public as an Agent that it can only be necessary now to say, that economy and prompt attention shall be extended to all business confided to his care; and that, to enable him to render his services and facilities more efficacious, he will forthwith obtain a commission of Notary Public.

It is but just that, while it will be his pleasure to give instant attention to all proper communications, the postage should be paid on letters addressed to him.

WASHINGTON, D.C. JULY 1, 1832.

[No address]

John S. Barbour¹⁰ to Thomas H. Blount

CITY OF WASHINGTON

3 July 1832

Dear Major

The Bank Bill has passed its final reading in the lower house by 104 to 86!—now comes the tug of War—Tazewell¹¹ is speaking and I must go in and hear. I have sent you a copy the Virginia resolutions of 98.¹² Madisons report [illegible] which are very scarce, therefor please let your father & Bro^t see it, the other copy I send Kennedy¹³ to prime him up for Calhoun before Hall¹⁴ gets back—

Yours truly

JSB

[J. S. Barbour written on back]

Addressed: Tho^s H Blount Esq
Washington
N^o Carolina

¹⁰ John Strode Barbour (1790-1855) was a Virginia lawyer and politician. He served several terms in the Virginia legislature and was a member of Congress from 1823 to 1833. His cousin, Philip P. Barbour, was Van Buren's major political rival for the vice-presidential nomination in 1832. Although the voters overwhelmingly approved the Jackson-Van Buren ticket in North Carolina, Barbour did carry six counties by a majority, one of which was Beaufort County. The Blounts, Calhoun men eager to support his stand against Jackson and Van Buren, actively campaigned for Barbour in North Carolina. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 513; Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 47-57, 115-116.

¹¹ Littleton Waller Tazewell (1774-1860), a Democratic congressman and senator from Virginia, served in the United States House (1800-1801) and Senate (1824-1832). He also served as governor of Virginia from 1834 to 1836. An extreme individualist and state rights proponent, Tazewell was highly critical of Jackson's handling of the nullification crisis in 1832, although Tazewell himself opposed nullification. *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1798; Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 1050; *Who Was Who*, 594.

¹² Barbour refers here to the resolutions written by James Madison in 1798 as a protest against the Alien and Sedition acts. Believing those acts to be unconstitutional, Madison set forth the view that the states could act together against a law passed by Congress, if those states were convinced of a law's unconstitutionality and could "interpose for arresting the progress of evil." Madison's resolutions were adopted by the Virginia legislature. An even stronger set of resolutions, written by Thomas Jefferson and adopted by the Kentucky legislature, said that each state could judge "infractions" for itself and decide upon the "mode and measure of redress." The doctrine of nullification was implied in both sets of resolutions, and several northern states repudiated them. Neither Kentucky nor Virginia made any effort to nullify the Alien and Sedition acts. Morris, *Encyclopedia of American History*, 130.

¹³ The Kennedy family had a long history of political opposition to the Blounts, and this probably refers either to William Kennedy of Pitt and Beaufort counties or to his son William L. Kennedy. Loy and Worthy, *Washington and the Pamlico*, 401-402; 1803, n. 65.

¹⁴ For Thomas H. Hall see 1812, n. 21; 1831, n. 24.

James R. Hanrahan to William Augustus Blount

WASHINGTON July 7 1832

Dr Sir

The evening before last I was with M^r Singletary who desired me to consult with you on your return from your farm relative to the misunderstanding (if so I may term it) with M^r Kennedy Jr.¹⁵

The angry passions of the moment having subsided & *calm reason* assumed his sway I feel desirous to bring the affair to a speedy issue and would be glad to have an interview with you this evening should you be at leisure

Yours truly
Ja^s R Hanrahan

To Gen^l W. A. Blount

Addressed: Gen^l W. A. Blount
Present

Joseph B. Hinton to William Augustus Blount

WASH: July 17th '32

Sir,

With the popular views which it is known, that you fondly cherish, it is not a little surprising to me that you act as if you are eager to make me your enemy. Not content that I voted for you every time but once, that you have been a candidate, and several times warmly supported you; and in the Legislature not only held up your family to the most favourable and flattering notice of the State, but also threw myself in the pass way of the western schemers,¹⁶ expressly to preserve the Constitution, exempt the State from burthens, and guard our equal participation in

¹⁵ This is probably a reference to William L. Kennedy.

¹⁶ Sectionalism in North Carolina became very intense in 1831. When the capitol building burned in Raleigh, leading politicians in the western part of the state came out in favor of moving the capital to Fayetteville, provided politicians in southeastern North Carolina would support a call for a constitutional convention. Westerners were convinced that only through a direct referendum on specific constitutional amendments or a constitutional convention could they secure for the West its rightful portion of political power. The movement failed in 1831, but the agitation continued on into 1832 and 1833. Finally, in 1835, a constitutional convention was held. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 81-85.

the Honors of the State, as well as to protect Beaufort & all Eastern Carolina from the burthens, taxation & losses, which the west seek to fasten upon us—& in a word—did more for the people in this section of the State, in the short period of my service, than all my predecessors, then twenty years past had it in their power to do—because, of the altered condition of things in the State, I say, not content with all this, you, I am informed, are actively engaged in resisting my election. If you, if the people could *gain* by my defeat, the surprise would be less than it is. You have the right to vote against me, but will you so far forget yourself and me, as to (2) insult my misfortunes or misrepresent me? I hope not. You can gain nothing by it, and may lose much, *at another day*. Naturally I am not your foe, and with proper treatment, you would have nothing but good will, to apprehend from me—for your brothers sake I would prefer to be your friend.

In regard to the Jury, suffer me to correct your impressions. The *people* agitated that subject all round the County, long, long before I became a Candidate; and to the people belong the right of stirring it & of saying whether they will or will be paid for their services on the Jury. If elected, I will not depart an inch from the peoples wish in this matter, be that wish to pay—or not to pay. But if they are to be paid, I will endeavour to contrive it so, as to make as small a part of the expense fall on the property of the County, as possible. My only purpose has been to disabuse the public mind, as to the *Cost* of paying our Jury, that the people may decide with the truth before them. But it is worthy of note that at the lower Musters, Rollin & Bonner have taken far higher ground in regard to compensation than either myself or Clark or Smallwood. Rollin & Bonner have excused the repeal of the Jury Law, upon the ground that that Law, *only promised*, but *did not* and *could not pay* the Jury—that *it stood* (3) *in the way of paying them*, was necessary to be repealed *in order to open the way for their payment*; that *they were as much in favour of paying the Jury as any body could be*—& if elected, as they see it is desired, will provide pay for the Jury—& they would do this, by taxing—not suits—but *property*, and provide the money *in hand* to *pay the Jury as soon as the service is rendered*. I refer you to Mr Clark, Smallwood, Ruch Windly, & many others who heard us all, for the truth of what I here state.

But with the facts before us—that so many Counties pay their Jury, that eleven Counties provided pay for their Juries at the last session—& among them the County of Macon, the *youngest* of all the Counties in the State—that the experiment we have made, shows clearly that \$400 will pay our Jury—& more—that \$200 *can be obtained* from the Dockets *without burthening suitors*—& the other \$200 would not require 2 cents on the \$100 value of lands—or 5 cents on the poll; I say, with these facts before us,

the jury compensation ought no longer to be viewed, by any body, as a burthen or a bug bear.

Respectfully
Your Servant
Jos. B Hinton

Gen^l W. A Blount

Addressed: Gen^l W. A. Blount
Present

James Iredell¹⁷ to William Augustus Blount

RALEIGH July 30th 1832

Dear Sir,

J. W. Clark¹⁸ had declined Serving as Elector for your District on the ground of his unwillingness in engage in public life—Will you be So good as to communicate with M^r Lloyd¹⁹ & the other delegates from your District to the Barbour Convention & advise the Central Committee whom to Select to fill the vacancy they created—

I have received your letter & intended to ansswer it at length but just now have not time—All our accounts are very encouraging—The West is almost unanimous for us—But our opponents are very active & we must not relax our exertions—Let us hear from you Soon on the Subject of an Elector—I think you ought to be the man—Direct your communications on any *official* matters to Col. W. Polk²⁰ who is Chairman of our Committee

¹⁷James Iredell, Jr., an ex-Federalist who had worked with the Jacksonians since 1828, broke with them over the proposed Van Buren vice-presidency. Instead, Iredell became John Branch's chief lieutenant in trying to nominate Philip Barbour as vice-president. Ultimately the Branch faction hoped to swing North Carolina over to John C. Calhoun. In 1832 Iredell acted as president of the independent state Barbour convention (held in defiance of the Democrats' official Baltimore Convention), which declared support for a Jackson-Barbour ticket. William A. Blount was a vice-president of the Barbour convention. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 14, 17, 27, 29, 32, 45, 48-49, 54.

¹⁸For James West Clark see 1821, n. 26.

¹⁹Joseph R. Lloyd represented Edgecombe County in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1821. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 278.

²⁰William Polk, one of Jackson's earliest supporters in the state, was opposed to Van Buren for the vice-presidency and instead favored Philip Barbour. During the 1832 convention held in the state by Van Buren's opponents, Polk was elected to head the central coordinating committee responsible for promoting Barbour's candidacy. Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 45, 49. Also see 1805, n. 22.

Yours Sincerely
Ja. Iredell

Gen^l William A. Blount

Addressed: Gen^l William A. Blount
Washington
N^o C^a

Joseph R. Lloyd to William Augustus Blount

[August 4, 1832]

Dr Sir

The Barbour committee ask to be advised as to filling the vacancy of Elector caused by Jas W Clarks refusing to run—

You or Genl Clark must be the man, which will serve our cause Best? I think the committee prefer you from the tenor of Iredells letter— Consult Saunderson²¹ & others and let me hear from you I am of opinion that any and every objection to Potts²² benefited him—

Very Respectfully
Yours
JR Lloyd

P.S. Enquire at the Stage office for two bundles of the Barbour address one to you the other to Saunderson, forward Saundersons

Tarboro 4 Aug 1832

Addressed: Genl William A Blount
Washington N C

²¹ This might refer to Benjamin Saunderson, who represented Hyde County several times in the North Carolina legislature between 1811 and 1830. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 260-261, 263, 289, 292.

²² This was probably John W. Potts, a Jacksonian Democrat from Edgecombe and later Mecklenburg County. He served several times in the North Carolina legislature in the 1830s and 1840s. Cheney, *North Carolina Government*, 299, 300, 302, 315; Hoffmann, *Andrew Jackson and North Carolina Politics*, 61. Also see 1827, n. 35.

*Report of the Jackson-Barbour Committee*WASHINGTON Aug^t 5 1832

At a meeting of the Jackson & Barbour Committe for the County of Beaufort present—

Gen^l W^m A Blount

Sam^l [illegible]

Doc^r W^m A Shaw

Jn^o L Hanks

on motion this committe was organized by appointing—Gen^l W^m A Blount Chairman & Jn^o L Hanks Secty—

The chairman informed the committe that he had rec^d communications informing him that Jas W Clark of Edgecomb who had been nominated elector on the Jackson & Barbour ticket for President & Vice Pres. of the United States had declined serving—upon which it was determined that it was expedient that the elector should be chosen from the County of Edgecomb and that for the present no one would be recommended—

The chairman handed to the Committe a number of the proceedings & the address of the Central Jackson & Barbour Committe which were ordered to be distributed—no further business appearing before the Committe it adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman

Samuel Dean to William Augustus Blount

[August 23, 1832]

Dear Sir

It is with sorrow I write you These Lines my reason for writing This is Some of my Enemies have persuaded my Securities to give me up to The Court This Week. I intend They shall not when I get ready to Quit The office I shall give my Self up I would come down But I doe not Intend to Be Seen untill Court Breaks

Aug^t 23d. 1832

Sam^l Dean

To W. A. Blount

M^r W.A Blount
present

Samuel Dean's Bill of Sale to William Augustus Blount

[August 27, 1832]

Know all Men by these presents, that I Samuel Dean of the County of Beaufort & State of N. Carolina for and in Consideration of the Sum of Sixty eight Dollars to me in hand paid by William A Blount of the County & State aforesaid, the receipt wherof I do hereby acknowledge, have bargained, sold and delivered, and by these presents do bargain, sell and deliver unto the Said W^m A. Blount the following articles of Household & Kitchen for return to Wit: a mahogany dining Table, Six Windsor chairs, Four flag bottomed chairs, a Painted Bureau, a varnished maple bed-stead a walnut bed-stead, a pine bed-stead, two pine Tables, four Trunks, a carpet, 2 p^r of and Irons shovel and Tongs, two Beds, one pair of Sheets, one Bolster, three pillows, one Blanket, three Bed Quilts, two Counterpains, three candle-sticks two candle stands, five Homespun Window Curtains—Plates Knives & forks, cups & saucers, two Twin potts, a spider, an oven & a Tea Kettle, a Grid Iron & Grid-dle—a clock, a Wash Tub and a childs riding carriage—To have and to hold the Said bargained promises unto the Said W^m A Blount his executors, administrators and assigns forever and I The Said Samuel Dean, for myself, my executors and administrators shall and will warrant and forever defend, against all persons by these presents, the said bargained promises unto the said W^m A Blount his executors, administrators and assigns. Provided nevertheless, that if I the Said Samuel Dean, my executors and administrators and assigns or any of us, do and shall will and truly pay, or cause to be paid unto the said W. A Blount, his executors, administrators or assigns the Sum of Sixty eight Dollars on the first day of January next, with the lawful interest for the same for the redemption of the said bargained promises, then (2) this bill of sale to be void, or du to remain in full force—In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this August the 27th 1832.

Witness

Joseph Cordin Jr.²³Sam^l Dean

(Seal)

Personally appeared before me Joseph Cordin a witness to the above deed in trust, who Qualified he saw Sam^l Dean execute the above conveyance for the purposes therein named. Let it be.

W^m Ellison C²⁴Aug^t 27th 1832

²³ A Joseph Cording, Sr., and Joseph Cording, Jr., are listed under Beaufort County in the 1820 census as heads of households of five and six respectively. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Beaufort County, 11.

²⁴ For William Ellison see 1820, n. 5.

John Gray Blount's Receipt from Dr. William A. Shaw

[October 3, 1832]

John Gray Blount Esqr

To W^m A Shaw Dr

1832

Feb.	7.	Ailsie Styptic Pills or direc ^{ns}	1.00
"	8	Do. Visit to her at Quarter and directions 25/.	2.50
May	27	Styptic pills negro woman 10/.	1.00
"	30	Do Do 10/.	1.00
June	3	Do Do 10/.	1.00
July	31	negro Josias visit to Quarter 25/.	2.50
"	"	Cholera Mixture 10/ Close Attend. 10/	2.00
"	"	negro Theny Calomel 2/6. Salts 2/6.	.50
Aug ^t	24	Theny Attendance 10/	1.00
"	25	Do. Attend ^d 10/ Calomel 2/6	1.25
Sep ^r	14	Bitters for self 10/	1.00
			<hr/>
			\$14.75

October 3^d 1832 Rec^d payment in full
William A Shaw

John G. Roulhac to John Gray Blount

BERTIE COUNTY 19th Oct 1832

Mr John G Blount

Dear Sir

Inclosed you have a certificate of Stock which I Should have Sent you Long ago but when I wrote you Last I forgot it at the moment & concluded to wait untill I reminded you that the 3^d Monday of Nov^r (1st day of Washington County Court) was the day of Holding the annual meeting of Stockholders at Plymouth, at which time & place we Should be very glad to See you.

You Know how difficult it is to get a majority of them together which I hope will be Some inducement to you to come over, as also the certainty that the road will now be completed with as little Delay as possible & Long before another meeting—I am Sorry to Say that it Seems impossible to rain enough to drain this end of the road—

We have applied as a Last hope to Mr Collins²⁵ of Edenton through whose Land we understand the road runs, but have not yet heard farther (2) than that he had sent his Son to examine the Quality of his Land & that his report was very favourable—If he Should conclude to Subscribe it is hardly probable that he would take a Sufficient number of Shares to cut the ditch with the Sum already Subscribed which amounts I believe to about \$175—& I suppose it would take at Least 7 or 8 Hundred Dollars—I hope you will be able to get Shares taken over on the other Side & if you cannot come over that you will Let us hear from you with an acc^t of your Success—The cholera is Said to be raging very fiercely in Edenton & we expect to hear Everyday that it has begun its ravages in Plymouth. We hope that if we do not escape altogether, our evil day is at Some distance, as the Sound & Chowan river Lay between us & Edenton & there is no passing except the mail—It has been more Sickly in Windsor this fall than I ever Knew it while the adjoining Country has been uncommonly Healthy

I am with much Respect

Your Most Ob^t Sevt
J. G. Roulhac

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N.C.

James Alves²⁶ to John Gray Blount

HENDERSON KY. November 12th 1832

Jn^o G. Blount Es^r

Dear Sir

Not having received an answer to mine dated upwards of twelve months since, have been at a loss to know what to do, but have finally concluded that my letter must have miscarried and that I had better repeat the substance of it—Our Legislature during the session before last, passed a law authorising all Deeds that had been properly authenticated,

²⁵For Josiah Collins see 1805, n. 41.

²⁶James Alves might have been a son of Gavin or Walter Alves. See 1803, n. 9.

though not recorded within eight months after their execution, to be now admitted to record, upon the reacknowledgement of the same by the Grantors, which said law allowed the recording of your Deeds sent me, and has as is thought, completed your title to the claim in Salters²⁷ lands—I procured Commissioners to allot your proportion agreeable to your memorandum forwarded. And they allotted & conveyed to you by Deed Lot N^o cres and fractional Lott N^o III. of 100 acres, leaving lot N^o VII. north of Green River of 989 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres for the heirs of Jn^o Salter Dec^d—As soon as this was done Mr Marshall was satisfied to receive a Deed & pay for N^o III. agreeable to contract, but not hearing from you or knowing how to forward you the money, I concluded to wait your instructions, with a promise to him that the Deed should be made as soon as you were heard from, upon his paying the price agreed upon—I have never yet heard from you, and the Cholera having lately severely visited our place, and life appearing very uncertain, I wrote and (2) acknowledged a Deed in your name, conveying to Mr Marshall your portion of lott N^o III being 100 acres I have not however as yet given up the Deed and made a settlement with M^r M but intend to do so, and beg you will advise me how to forward the amount to you

The prospect of the expiration of the U. S. bank charter has already had a serious effect upon the Demand for property and if the present administration succeeds in retaining office and persists in refusing to sanction the Bill for rechartering the Bank, the depression in the price of property and scarcity of money in the west will be ruinous to a very large portion of our citizens

I contemplate this winter to lay off lott N^o 32 into small lotts of about 200 acres each, as being the most probable mode of effecting the sale of it—Please write me as early as convenient after the receipt of this, and say whether you approve of this determination

In much hurry to be in time for the mail

I am very Respectfully
Your Ob^t Serv^t
James Alves

Addressed: Jn^o G. Blount Esq^r
Washington
North Carolina

²⁷For the Salter estate see 1807, n. 33.

1833

Ezekiel Hutson¹ to Thomas H. Blount

January 8 Day 1832 [1833]

M^r Blount Sir

I understood that your father had a deceic^d I have thought that you would not settle the north side of the Lake and if you did not settle it I would wish to purchase it if you would sell it I have made up my mind for to give you fifteen hundred Dollars for you north lake plantation and what I dont pay you down I will give you not[e] and good security as good security as in hyde county

I would wish you for to write me answer in short if you please

Ezekiel Hutson

Addressed: M^r Thomas Blunt
Washington

John W. Guion² to Thomas H. Blount

BANK OF NEWBERN
January 18th 1833

Thomas H. Blount Esq^r

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 13th Inst^t is rec^d—as Soon as there is a meeting of the Board the Subject matter of your letter shall be laid before them—

There is only one Note due from your Father to this Bank Viz: \$4,040 Jan ¼ 1833. His Liabilities are only on two Notes which are your own

¹Although this letter is dated January 8, 1832, it is placed with the year 1833, for that is where it belongs. Since John Gray Blount died January 4, 1833, the letter was obviously written January 8, 1833, not 1832. Hutson simply did what people still often do in the early days of a new year—that is, he forgetfully wrote down the previous year. Ezekiel Hutson was the head of a household of five in Hyde County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Hyde County, 16.

²John W. Guion was a teller and then cashier at the Bank of New Bern. Miller, *Recollections*, 35.

one due Feby. 23, 1833	\$810
The other due Mar 4 "	<u>213</u>

The above note of 4040 is renewable by cutting it down every 90 days
\$487—

With great respect
Yr Ob^t Ser^t
Jn^o W. Guion Cash^r

Addressed: Thomas H. Blount Esq^r
Washington
N.C.

Jabez K. Harris to Thomas H. Blount

PROSPECT MILLS January 20th 1833

Mr Blount Sir, I wish you to infore me what is to be done, my crop is all housed and I am here takeing care of the property I wish to have your advise, & do pray sir informe me If you do intend to keepe me imployed on the South Side plantation this year a cording to your farthers contrac and mine, for If you do not it will throw me in a Vary aucurd Situation, for at is So Late in the Season it will plague me to get in to Business this presant year

and if you do continue me on Shouth side plantation I want to have the hands at worke for at this time they are doing nothing, and nothing to Eat only Bredd and part of them no Shooes But I Scent the measures of all those needed Shooes to the old man

Write me If you wish the corn Beat out

yours Respectfully
Jabez K. Harris

Addressed: Mr. Thomas H. Blount
Washington
Beaufort County
N. C.

*Robert Love to William Augustus Blount*WAYNESVILLE 9th of Feb^y 1833Gen^l William A Blount

My Dear Sir/ By the last Mail I see in a paper Published by Gales & Seaton³ at Washington had announced the Death of your worthy Father, which is stated to have taken place on the 4th of the last month, and in the 81st year of his age; Should this be the case It will be necessary for me to have a Power from either his Executors or Administrators, to finish such Business as I have begun, This I find to be Essentially Necessary from The Great Number of applications for the purpose of finishing the Business heretofore begun—please should the unpleasant account be true, to send me powers Sufficient to finish such Business as I have Begun

And as I expect to be at Raleigh God willing by the 12th of May Next, at which time and place, It would Give me pleasure to meet with you, we can then make such other arrangements as may be thought, necessary, or for you to employ Some other person who may be more adequet and Suitable, than I am—please Send on Such Powers and instructions as will be suitable for me to finish such Business as I have begun

I will list the Land for Taxation in this and Buncombe so no inconvenience may arise

With due respect I am your Ob^t Serv^t &c

R^o LoveGen^l William A. Blount

Addressed: Gen^l William A. Blount
Beaufort County North Carolina
Town of Washington

John R. Donnell to William Augustus Blount

NEWBERN Feby 13 1833

Dear Sir

On receiving your Letter I wrote immediately to my Overseer instructing him to permit the use of the screw by M^r Harris—I intended to have

³For Joseph Gales, Jr., and William W. Seaton see 1827, n. 2.

written to you by the last mail but was prevented by some unexpected and pressing business which engaged me on Monday morning until the mail was closed. I know not how to account for any difficulty between M^r Simmons & M^r Harris about the [illegible] of the screw as I had requested M^r S. to permit your fodder to be packed with it. You are entirely welcome to the use of the Negro Houses and any other accommodation on the Farm until you can conveniently make your arrangements for removing—

I should not know what to offer for the threshing machine I have never examined it particularly but I think I have understood it was clumsily and heavily made and that it is at present out of order—(2) My own is in the same state but I think yours will probably be more easily repaired. Should we be able to agree in price when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you we may probably bargain for it.

Yours very respectfully
JR Donnell

Addressed: Gen^l William A Blount
Washington
N. C.

John M. Roberts⁴ to Thomas H. Blount

NEWBERN 20 Feby 1833

Dear Sir

On Submitting your proposition to our board last monday evening to renew your dec^d Fathers notes for 12 months without paying more than the interest and at the end of that period to pay the four instalments it was unanimously assented to—I have already furnished you with a list of the Notes due and to become due my best regards to Mrs Blount and family and for yourself accept the assurances of

Your friend & ob Sert
John M Roberts
Cashier

⁴John M. Roberts is listed in the 1820 census as the head of a household of three in Craven County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Craven County, 32.

you will be pleased as early as Convenient to Send over a note or notes for the renewal to keep our business *Straight*.

Addressed: Thomas H Blount Esq
Washington
N.C

Richard D. Spaight to Thomas H. Blount

NEWBERN February 20th 1833

Dear Sir

Some slight disappointments in my arrangements and an absence from town for several days have prevented an earlier answer to your esteemed favour of the 10th inst. I thank you for your kind feelings towards my deceased brother and am very certain that they were on his part warmly reciprocated. I trust you will meet with no serious difficulties in making such arrangements as you wish in relation to the business of your Father's estate. I have no doubt as you suggest that any proposition to M^r Smallwood for a change of security would be in vain. I would not there fore ask such a thing. But with the view of meeting your wishes and at the same time enabling me to close the business of my Brother's estate (a matter I desire) I have ascertained that I can procure the means of taking up the note in M^r Smallwood's hands on which my Brother is the surety of your Father, and will do so at once, on (2) receiving from you such a note as you propose giving M^r Smallwood. If you prefer it, the note may be made payable at twelve months with interest from the 1st day of March next. The principal of M^r Smallwood's note is three thousand dollars with interest from the 1st of May 1831. On the first day of March next the amount due will be three thousand three hundred and thirty dollars (\$3330). If you will enclose the note to our friend M^r Roberts I will procure the old note and deposite it with him with such receipt as will make it a voucher for you in the settlement of the estate. Your early attention to the business will greatly oblige me.

Respectfully your Ob^t
Serv^t
Rich^d D Spaight

Thomas H Blount Esq^r

Addressed: Thomas H. Blount Esquire
Washington
N. C.

*Robert Love to William Augustus Blount*MORGANTON 26th of March 1833Gen^l William A Blount

Dear Sir/I rec^d your Letter a few days before I left home in answer to mine on the subject of the Death of your Father, and I must urge it on the attention of yourself and your Brother whom you inform me are the Executors of your Fathers Will, that as such you will Vest me with power to finish such Business as I had begun, and to Shew you the necessity of such a measure I will refer you to the Act of the Assembly of 1797—

Having Sold from time to time Sundry Small Tracts of your Fathers Land, and for which I have given his Bonds for Titles, and I am in many Instances call'd upon for Deeds, and for which I do not conceive myself at this time Vested with any power since the Death of your Father to do such thing you and your Brother can should you have a court shortly after receiving this make out and execute such a power as will authorise me to finish the Business which I have stated above, and if no Court Shortly It will be sufficient I think to sign and acknowledge the Same before two Justices of the peace & to have the Seal of the Clerks office thereto affixed, & If it is possible I must urge it on you to meet me in May Next, say the middle of that Month—I will still continue to pay the Taxes on the Lands in each of the Counties, But will not make any Land Sales untill we have an opportunity of Seeing other

Your friend &c R^o Love

Addressed: Gen^l William A Blount
Washington
Beaufort County
North Carolina

*Ben M. Jackson⁵ to Thomas H. and
William Augustus Blount*

TARBOROUGH 2^d April 1833

Gentlemen

I have succeeded in making sale of the two Vacant Lots N^o 100 & 101 to George W. Woodman⁶ for One Hundred & Fifty Dollars Should the sale prove satisfactory as I trust it will I wish you to send me a deed for the same for him by the return mail if possible for fear he might change his mind as I believe it the best price by one half that will ever be offered again for them

Respectfully your
Ob^t Serv^t
Ben M Jackson

Mess^r Tho^s H & W^m A Blount

Addressed: Tho^s H or W^m A Blount Esq^r
Washington N^o C

John Catron⁷ to Thomas H. Blount

NASHVILLE 10th Ap^l 1833

Dr Sir,

In the year 1823, your father as you recollect no doubt, caused to be conveyed to me of the John Gray & Tho^s Blount lands of Tennessee, 15 tracts. These tracts, (1000 acres each,) had been conveyed to Elijah Robertson⁸ for his locating services as early as perhaps 1789. I wrote

⁵For Ben M. Jackson see 1818, n. 18.

⁶George W. Woodman is listed in the 1820 census as a resident of Edgecombe County. Potter, *1820 North Carolina Census*, Edgecombe County, 2.

⁷John Catron (1786-1865), a Tennessee lawyer and judge, was active in establishing the Bank of Tennessee in 1831. He served on the state supreme court (1824-1834) and was the first chief justice in Tennessee (1831-1834). Andrew Jackson appointed him an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1837. Hopkins, *Concise DAB*, 151; Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*, II, 356, 385; *Who Was Who*, 167.

⁸Elijah Robertson (1744-1797) was the brother of General James Robertson. He served in the North Carolina legislature and was appointed to several minor posts in Tennessee by William Blount. Obviously a surveyor, Robertson was involved in land speculation with the Blounts. McBride, *Directory of the Tennessee Legislature*, I, 628; Land Warrants 515, 965, 1837, 2618, 2637, 2752, and others, Tennessee State Archives.

your father, & on the 27 May 1823 he replied, That they had been conveyed—15 or 16 tracts—"I find, (says he,) ten of the grants amongst my papers endorsed on them—'conveyed to M^r Elijah Robertson.' The numbers of them are, 175, 184, 258, 226, 264, 214, 235, 243, 182, 200, and appear to answer the discription in your letter. What the other numbers are I know not." These ten tracts he ordered M^r Fossy & your Brother J. G. Blount Jn^r to convey to me on behalf of Robertson's heirs.

Afterwards, he ascertained the other five tracts which I had discribed in my letter to him to have been conveyed to Elijah Robertson—to wit—no. 242, 181, 233, 244, & 188. These he also ordered to be conveyed—which was done by your brother, as atty. in fact. (2) I was informed that yourself and W^m G. Blount of Ten. were the qualified executors of Gn^l Tho^s Blount—through the information of your brother, & W^m G. Blount, a deed was forwarded, and executed by you in 1825 for the 15 tracts—and on Gov. Willie Blount bringing of it to Knoxville, W^m G. Blount acknowledged it in Court.

So the matter has stood until now, when Gn^l Gaines says the transaction is fraudulent—abuses yourself, & your father I know without measure, and is attacking me—Says he will sue me & Robertson's heirs as well as you. The reasons of the conveyance must be shown in taking an account between you and him, should he not sue us—which I think he will—as he is in a rage for law suits about this business not to be discribed. It seems to me his mind must be affected on the subject. A fancy so wild & distempered, as his letters exhibit him to me, cannot have been his former state. His language is most vindictive, & holden to *all listeners*. character, as well as the controversy requires that all the papers shewing the lands conveyed to Elijah Robertson should be had. If he has not Jurisdiction of you, yet he may of me—& I desire especially to defeat him, because his conduct towards Robertson's heirs I think decidedly dishonest. He knows the Robertson's did locate the lands. Be so good as to examine, and see if on the Joint *land books* of John G. & Tho^s Blount it does not appear, that these lands were con(3)veyed to Elijah Robertson, M^r Fossy says he thinks it will be found so. The Grants with the indorsments of the 10 first named tracts I desire to obtain—and wish your information in whose hand writing the endorsements are. Every information that may be had from your father's papers I shall be exceedingly obliged if you can furnish me with. If an opportunity offers to send me the ten grts. do so—of which I will take especial care.

Will you be so kind as to write me on the recp^t of this. I may need the papers to answer Gn^l. Gaines's bill—He must revive against your father's heirs—when they may perchance plead in abatement, and leave me alone to combat the Genl. in this state.

With great respect sir,
Yr obt. Serv^t
J Catron

P.S. W^m G. Blount informed me that he was one of the qualified executors of Gen^l Tho^s Blount—your brother also so informed me. The copy of will in my possession does not shew he was qualified. It is likely he did so long after you qualified, & the clerk has not copied this part of the record—How is the fact?

J. C.

Tho^s H. Blount, esquire

Addressed: Tho^s H. Blount esquire
Washington
North Carolina

Robert Love to William Augustus Blount

RALEIGH 18th of May 1833

Gen^l William Blount

Dear Sir/ I was Very desirious of Seeing of you at this place at this time but in this I have been disappointed, But I must Urge It on you, If you have not forwarded to me a Power of an attorney from yourself and your Brother whom you have informed me are the Executors of your Fathers Will—This is Essentially necessary at this time as I have to make Sundry Deeds to persons who have made purchases of Land & have made full payment and they are now Craving of their Deeds, and Some of the persons Seem'd to be uneasy in consequence of my not being able to comply with their requests

I refer you to the act of assembly passed in 1797 in the second Book of Revisals Page 840 Chapter 478 authorising of Executors or administrators to Execute Deeds under certain Limitations, when you forward to me your powers please have the Clerk of the Courts Seal annexed thereto

I expect to leave this place to morrow morning God willing

I am with due regard your Ob^t Serv^t &c

R^o Love

Addressed: Gen^l William Blount
Washington
Beaufort County
N^o Carolina

*John Owen to William Augustus Blount*BLADENBAY: June 14th 1833

My dear Sir

The lands belonging to your fathers estate in this county are situated not less than forty miles from where I live, and in a part of the country that I never have yet visited—consequently I know nothing about them—whilst I acted as your fathers agent, I *wrote him*, and *told your brother & yourself*, that trespasses had been committed on them to a considerable extent—I learn from gentlemen living in the neighbourhood, that they are continued up to the present time, and that much of the land has been rendered of little value in consequence of being (2) stripped of the timber.

I think you would act wisely to sell them—the tendency of prices for this kind of property in our country is evidently downward, and your distant residence from these, make it too inconvenient to attend to them.

If you will come on to this country, I will go with you to see them, and aid you if I can, in selling—if you cannot *come*, allow me to recommend as your agent Patrick Murphy of New Hanover—M^r Murphy is a young lawyer of excellent character in the upper end of New Hanover, and I think not very far from some of your lands—In the mean time, command my services without reserve as to their security—in paying taxes &c &c—

(3) Shall I not have the pleasure of meeting you at Chapel Hill? we have the prospect of an interesting commencement.

Yours truly
Jno. Owen

Gen^l William A Blount

Addressed: Genl. William A Blount
Washington
N.C—

Mail

*John Gooch to William Augustus Blount*WAYNESVILLE HAYWOOD COUNTY July 10th 1833Gen^l Wm A Blount

Dear Sir Since the death of your Father I know no person to write but your Self in the year 1818 & 1819 John Strother as your fathers agent gave

a Bond to John Gillam for 200 Acre of land in west Tennessee & Gillam was to pay \$500 dollars for the Bond was transferd to me and Strother died without making the tittle I then applied to your father and payment of the mony He Executed a title to me (but mind you I Had paid the money before to Strother but your father would not make title for he said he had not Reced payment for it) I then went to Nassshville to se Lockhart as the Representative of Strother in order to compell him to pay the money Back as I did not intend to pay twice for the same land Lockhart show^d me a settlement made with your father (2) as his agent for the same land I then took the advise of Lawyer Crabb⁹ How I should procede was to sue your father for the settlement that Lockhart Had made with your father or agnt precluded me from Recovering it from Lockhart so your father has Reced payment from both which I am sure if the old Gentleman was alive he would not hold answer my letter Immediately on the Receipt if the same If you pleas and let me know what I am to depend on as I presume know man feels willing to pay twice for the same thing this from yours

most Resp^{ly}
John Gooch

Addressed: Gen^{rel} W A Blount
Washington
Beaufort County
N^o Carolina

William Hill¹⁰ to William Augustus Blount

RALEIGH 22nd July 1833

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 17th instant was received this morning; on examination I find Military Warrants N^o 1354 & 1476 for 640 Acres each, Surveyed for Thomas Blount, but I do not find any Grant for either on[e] recorded here. They both belong to file N^o 29, for which no Grants ever could be found on record in this Office—and for which special provision has been made by an act of the Legislature of Tennessee. I cannot there-

⁹The reference here is to Henry Crabb, a prominent Tennessee lawyer and judge on the state supreme court. Hale and Merritt, *Tennessee and Tennesseans*, II, 387.

¹⁰For William Hill see 1822, n. 16.

fore give you the numbers of the Grants, if any ever issued, but do not believe, that a Grant has ever issued on either of them.

Your proposition as to the payment of fees will suit very—For this trouble I charge you 20 Cents.

Your Ob^t Serv^t
W^m Hill

Gen^l W^m A. Blount

[Note scribbled in by one of the Blounts]

T.B. taxes—

B & H. lands sold for taxes—

Addressed: Gen^l William A. Blount
Washington
Beaufort County
N^o C^a

Robert Love to William Augustus Blount

WAYNESVILLE 6th Sep^t 1833

Gen^l William A Blount

My dear Sir on my arrival at home on Friday Night last from Green County in Tennessee (where I had been confined & am so Still from a Kick of a horse which wounded my left Thigh in Such a manner as to render the whole limb useless, so as I am to be lifted about,) I Rec^d your Letter enclosing a Power of att^o But as it is entirely confined to Buncomb County, It will only be of a partial Nature when in truth and in fact it ought to have extended to Haywood County as well as to Buncomb, as I am convinced that there is as much Business to be done in Haywood as in the other therefore as your Gen^l Courts will be Generally on It therefore may Give you and your Brother an opportunity of making out a new Power and to insert Both Counties in the same (to wit) Buncomb & Haywood and have the Certificate of the Clerk with his Seal of Office affixed to the Same, that there may be no room left for quibbling about the authenticity, for it is more than possible that I will have some Law-suits to wade through, hints of the kind are throwing out, from my present Situation I can have but little hopes of meeting of you in Raleigh at the time Stated in your Letter yet I hope I may be able with the Bless-

ing of God to be able to travel by the first of December, But of my Situation I will let you know in a month hence

I Beg of you not to Neglect the Power which I have named for Sundry Deed are now due & I plead my inability to Get about or to examine my paper which is a Truth for an excuse for I have to be lifted in and out of Bed by two persons—a strong Negro man lifts at my Body and another person at my legs, for I cannot move my wounded thigh & leg in any other way

I beg to be remembered with every degree of friendship to your Brother—& receive for yourself my best wishes (2) and believe me to be with Sincerity your real friend &c whilst I Subscribe myself to be your ob^t Serv^t &c

R^o Love

Gen^l William A Blount

Addressed: Gen^l William A Blount
County of Beaufort
North Carolina
Town of Washington

Gavin Hogg to William Augustus Blount

RALEIGH 15 Nov 1833

William A Blount esq

My dear sir

Your letter was rec^d a day or two since—I am sorry to hear of your Brothers ill health and hope he is now better—I have put your papers under seal & sent them to Judge Donnell who is tonight at the Eagle Hotel & expects to leave in the morning for Newbern—He says He will soon pass through Washington on his way to Mattamuskeet and will deliver them—If you should want them very urgently you can send expressly to Newbern for them: I carried them on the circuit with me for the purpose of Sending them to Washington but I was so much indisposed that if any person was going to Washington I did not Know it—

They are too bulky & too valuable to be sent by mail or I would have sent them to your Brother long since who I knew wanted them—

I doubt if any person except my self understands the notes made for your fathers answer by him & by me: I shall be at Williamston for a day

or two on the 1st January if any explanation be needed which I can make if you will bring the papers over there I will be glad to make it—

Yours very respectfully
Gavin Hogg

Addressed: William A Blount Esq^{re}
or
Thomas H Blount Esq^{re}
Washington
N Carolina

Robert Love to Thomas H. and William Augustus Blount

WAYNESVILLE 29th of Nov^r 1833

Mess^{rs} Thomas H Blount
and William A Blount

Gentlemen some time about the last of August I wrote to you, informing of you of my misfortune which I met with in Tennessee on the 14th day of July, By the kick of a horse which has disabled me in my left Hip and thigh and from which I have been measureably confined to my bed, I am now able only to Sit up in a Chair from half an hour to an hour at a time, and it takes two persons to lift me from the bed to the Chair, and the Same to put me in the bed again—On my Geting Home from Tennessee I met with your Power of attorney, but it only authorises me to do Business in the County of Buncombe—as there is perhaps as much of the Business Lying within the County of Haywood, It therefore become necessary for you to make out and forward to me a power also for Haywood, I am much pressed on by people who have made purchases to have the Business finished, But as things are I cannot legally do any thing, I have and am directing the people to have their Bonds proven, in the Courts where the Lands lye, so as to have them in readiness for me to Convey when the payments are made

My dear friends these are things that we must attend to, I have a flattering hope that my injured Limb will recover its Strength as to enable me to both Walk and ride, against Spring or Change of the Season and if it is the will of Providence that I will be able to Travell by the Spring, I

shall want to go on to Raleigh about the middle of June or first of July, and if so I will take you on a few horses—I can have the sales carried on by my Son James R Love if I once had the Power to do so—untill I can be able to attend to the Business—Your friend &c

R^o Love

Addressed: Mess^{rs} Thomas H Blount, and Gen^l William A Blount
Beaufort County North Carolina
Town of Washington
in said County

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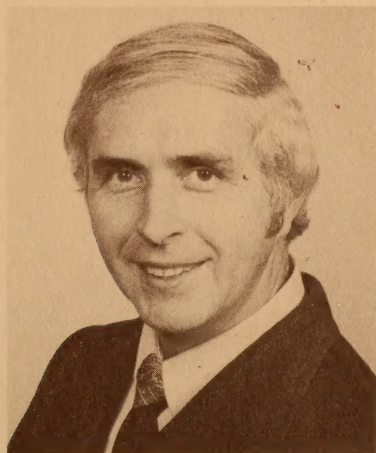
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